



ELIZABETH A. RYAN, ESQ.
PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

May 7, 2015

The Honorable Tom MacArthur
United States House of Representatives
506 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman MacArthur:

On behalf of the New Jersey Hospital Association and our over 300 hospital, health system and other provider members, I am writing to express my strong support for H.R. 1604, the Veterans' Mental Health Care Access Act. This measure is critically important to the veterans of New Jersey, and all across the nation.

The widely publicized reports of insufficient access to care for veterans at Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities are deeply troubling. Despite recent legislative efforts to improve healthcare services at VA facilities, the devastating statistics on veteran suicides, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other service-related mental health disorders continue to plague our servicemen and women. There is a clear and undeniable need for new legislative solutions to expand options for veterans seeking mental health services to non-VA facilities.

Non-VA healthcare facilities all over the state of New Jersey are capable and eager to offer care to the men and women who served our country. With over 700,000 veterans in our state, the Veterans' Mental Health Care Access Act is an important step in addressing some of the serious mental health challenges many of the veterans face in our state.

I commend your leadership on this important issue and offer my continued support for this bill. On behalf of all of our members, thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth A. Ryan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.