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A M V E T S

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December 1, 2017

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senate
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain and Senator Moran:

On behalf of AMVETS (American Veterans) and the 250,000 members we represent, we are pleased to support the draft bill, *Veterans Community Care and Access Act of 2017*. Veterans need health care, both inside and outside of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system of care. This measure addresses funding, implements ongoing patient surveying in conjunction with community care teams, and devises re-evaluation of both VA and private sector care. Both need oversight.

In the end, AMVETS idealistically wishes that VA could treat every veteran needing health care, yet we understand that currently about 30 percent of veterans are seen in the private sector. No matter where a veteran is treated – they deserve industry standard access, quality care, and seamless interaction with their health care records if they must bounce between VA and non-VA care. This bill seeks to remedy this issue in addition to addressing VA staff shortages.

All veterans have a right to receive the quality health care they have earned, and we applaud the hard work and insight that has taken place for this type of measure to be created. We urge its swift passage and will assist however we can.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH R. CHENELLY
Executive Director