

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

March 18, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
HVC-207, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Culberson, and Ranking Members Lowey and Bishop:

We write to request that the following language be added to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Military and Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act:

“None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code.”

We ask that you again include language prohibiting senior executives at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from receiving bonuses.

We should not be handing out performance awards when almost 400,000 veterans have to wait longer than 125 days to get their disability claims processed by the VA.

Even though the VA has failed to process claims in a timely manner, senior executives have continued to receive bonuses over the years. In FY11, the Department of Veterans Affairs paid its senior executives almost \$3 million in bonuses. Senior Executives at the VA already have salaries ranging between \$120,000 and \$180,000.

In April of 2013, the Veterans Affairs Department announced their intent to withhold bonuses for senior officials responsible for overseeing disability claims during FY13. The Department

cited "a failure to meet performance goals for reducing a sizable backlog in claims processing." At that time, the VA spokesman indicated that savings from not paying bonuses in FY13 would go towards assisting with reducing the backlog.

We ask that you utilize fiscal prudence, prioritize resources towards reducing the backlog, and not reward under-performing bureaucrats. This same language was included in the House passed FY 2013 Military and Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. We ask that you again recognize the importance of including this language that seeks to hold the VA accountable for their lack of performance in providing timely care to many of our veterans.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership in your respective committees.

Sincerely,



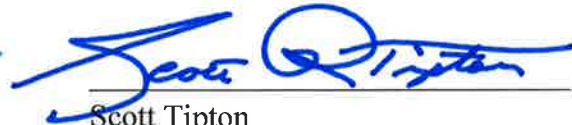
Paul Gosar
United States House of Representatives



Jeff Miller
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Leonard Lance
United States House of Representatives



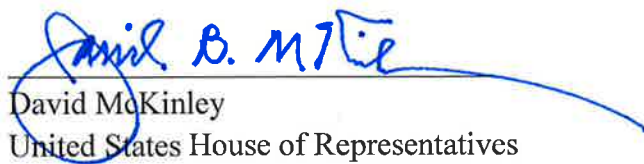
Scott Tipton
United States House of Representatives

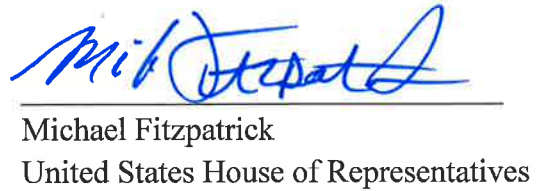


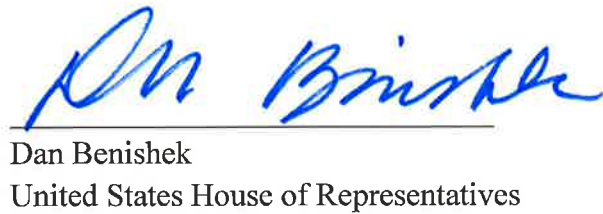
Tim Huelskamp
United States House of Representatives




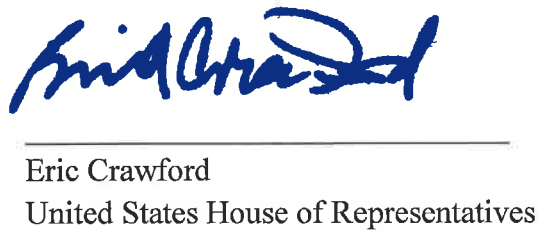
Pete Olson
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