



June 4, 2014

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

Dear Senator McCain,

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is pleased to offer our support for S. 2424, *The Veterans' Choice Act of 2014*, which would require the VA to allow veterans to get quicker access to the health care benefits they have earned if the VA fails to provide that care in a timely manner or in a reasonably convenient location, and which would also increase transparency and accountability at the VA in meaningful and substantive ways.

In the wake of revelations that the VA has been intentionally concealing excessive health care wait times at facilities around the country, including allegations that scores of veterans may have died as a result of these excessive wait times, it is clear that VA has an emergent issue with meeting demand. This bill will serve an immediate need to increase VA service capacity by temporarily authorizing veterans to get quicker care from approved private and community providers if the VA cannot provide medical care to the veteran within a reasonable amount of time set by the VA or if the veteran would have to travel beyond a reasonable distance to receive VA care.

While IAVA believes that a strong, sustainable, fully funded VA is necessary for our country to meet its commitment to its veterans, we are also open to complementary solutions that augment VA's capacity and ensure that veterans receive the highest quality care possible in a timely manner. We are, therefore, proud to offer our assistance and support for this meaningful legislation.

If we can be of help, please contact Lauren Augustine, IAVA's Legislative Associate, at (202) 544-7692 or lauren@iava.org.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Paul Rieckhoff', is written in a cursive style.

Paul Rieckhoff
Chief Executive Officer and Founder
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)