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October 24, 2012

Steven Keller, Acting Chairman  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Board of Veterans Appeals  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Keller,

I am writing to respectfully request that the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) schedule a travel board hearing in Buffalo, New York immediately. It has come to my attention that an audio recording device malfunctioned the last time the travel board visited Buffalo, preventing the BVA from completing transcripts of the proceedings. This error affected many veterans who waited patiently for the travel board to come to Western New York. Now these men and women have been told that if they would like their case to be heard in person, they need to wait for the BVA to schedule another travel board hearing in our region. At this time, my office has been informed that the next board is not coming to Buffalo for several months.

It is unacceptable to me that a technological error is causing additional delay for these veterans who already waited patiently for their appeals to be heard and I am sure you would agree that the situation is unfairly prolonging a final decision regarding their cases.

I urge your agency to schedule another travel board hearing in Buffalo right away so that these Western New York veterans do not have to bear the burden of uncertainty any longer.

I look forward to working with you concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. Hochul  
Member of Congress