

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 28, 2013

Eric K. Shinseki  
Secretary  
United States Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Room 500  
Washington D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

First and foremost, we would like to thank you for your hard work and dedicated service in helping our nation's veterans. The sacrifices our veterans, and their families, have made for our country is the very reason we as Americans are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today. Just as you are, we are grateful for their service every day, and feel it is of the utmost importance that veterans are fully cared for upon their return home.

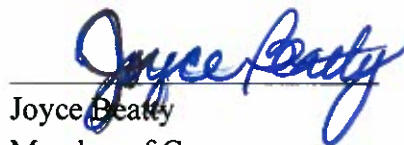
Unfortunately, many veterans are forced to wait an unprecedented amount of time before their benefits claims are processed. In our state of Ohio, some veterans have had to wait up to nearly a year for their claims to be processed. This is unacceptable, and our veterans deserve better and more efficient service from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Fortunately, the recently passed National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2013 contains language that requires the VA to provide a report to Congress on a plan to reduce the backlog of claims. We look forward to receiving the report as soon as possible. This report is an important step; however, it is imperative that you and your staff act quickly and decisively to implement the report's findings and ensure veterans and their families are properly taken care of in a timely manner. We appreciate your time and attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



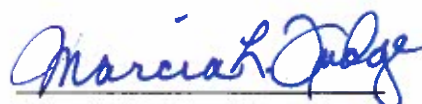
Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



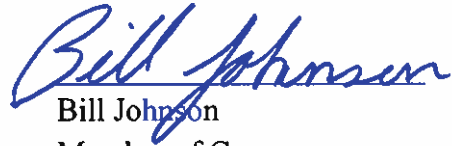
Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



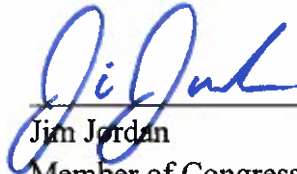
Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



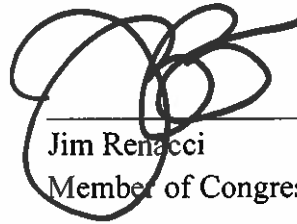
Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress



David Joyce  
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Marcy Kaptur  
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Tim Ryan  
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Steve Stivers  
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