

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May, 28 2013

President Barack Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request that you take direct action and involvement in ending the current Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability claims backlog.

After a decade of war, and despite the VA's efforts to modernize, more than 600,000 veterans are still stuck in the VA's disability claims backlog. While the average wait time for first time disability claims currently ranges between 316 and 327 days, veterans in certain parts of the country are waiting even longer – 625 in Pittsburgh, 510 in Philadelphia, 681 in Reno and Las Vegas, 619 days in Los Angeles, 612 in Indianapolis, 586 in Houston and 642 in New York. In the worst cases, veterans have waited and continue to wait 800 days, 900 days, and even more than 1000 days for a disability claims decision from the VA.

In the last four years, claims pending over a year have grown by 2000%, despite a 40% increase in the VA's budget. Solving this problem is critical for veterans of all generations. We need direct and public involvement from you to establish a clear plan to end the backlog once and for all.

This country must be grateful for the safe homecoming of every single man and woman who has served in harm's way. Our joy at their return must be reflected in our commitment to helping all who have served. We respectfully ask you and your administration to find a solution that ensures that no veterans are stuck in the VA backlog.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

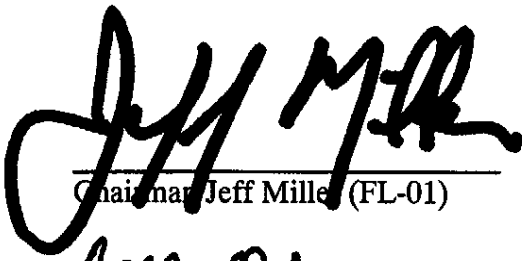
Sincerely,



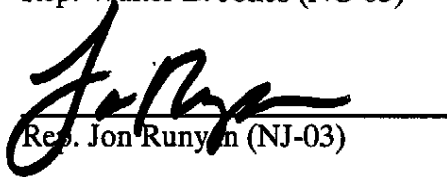
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Rep. Patrick Murphy (FL-18)

  
Chairman Jeff Miller (FL-01)

  
Rep. Walter B. Jones (NC-03)

  
Rep. Jon Runyan (NJ-03)

  
Rep. Scott R. Tipton (CO-03)

  
Rep. Stevan Pearce (NM-02)

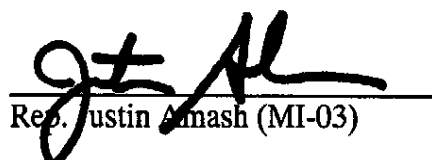
  
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Rep. Cory Gardner (CO-04)

  
Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02)

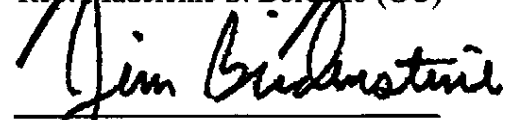
  
Rep. Steve King (IA-04)


  
Rep. Steve Chabot (OH-01)

  
Rep. Justin Amash (MI-03)

  
Chairman Buck McKeon (CA-25)

  
Rep. Madeleine S. Bordallo (GU)

  
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Rep. Kristi L. Noem (SD-At Large)


  
Rep. Steven M. Palazzo (MS-04)

  
Rep. Glenn Thompson (PA-05)

  
Rep. Cynthia Lummis (WY-At Large)

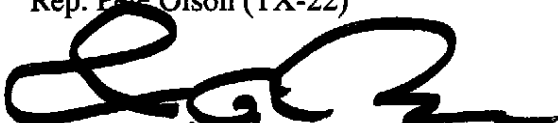
  
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Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (AZ-03)


  
Rep. Brad R. Wenstrup (OH-02)

  
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Rep. Cedric L. Richmond (LA-02)

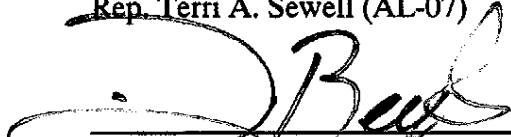
  
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Rep. Peter A. DeFazio (OR-04)

  
Rep. John Lewis (GA-05)

  
Rep. William L. Owens (NY-21)

  
Rep. Terri A. Sewell (AL-07)

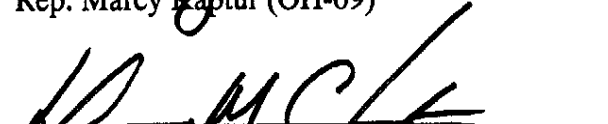
  
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Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (NY-04)


  
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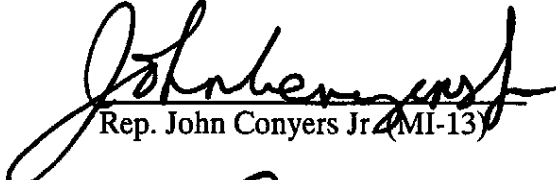
  
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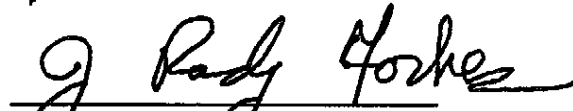
  
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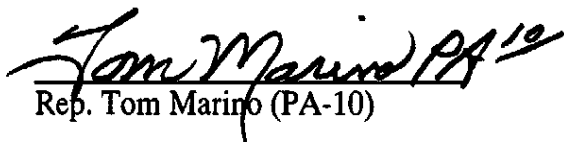
  
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Rep. Patrick J. Tiberi (OH-12)

  
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30)

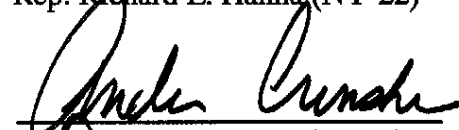
  
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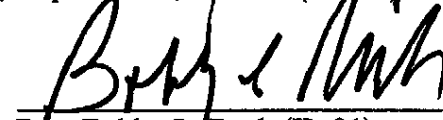
  
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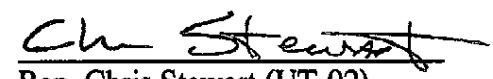
  
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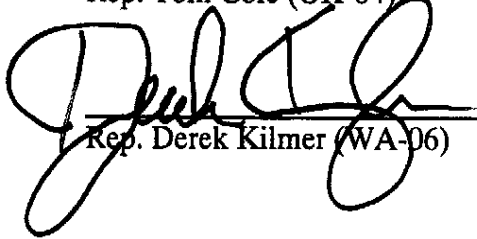
  
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Rep. Tom Cole (OK-04)

  
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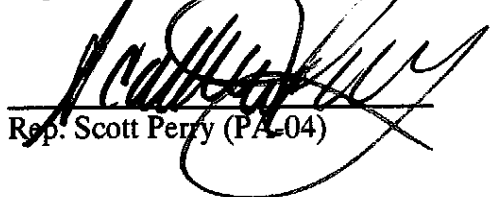
  
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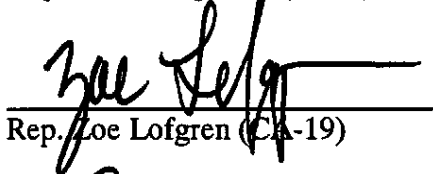
  
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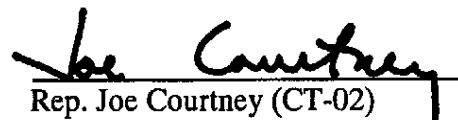
  
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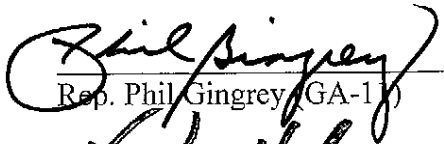
  
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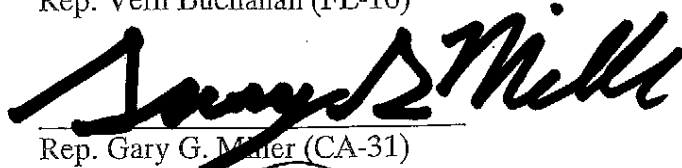
  
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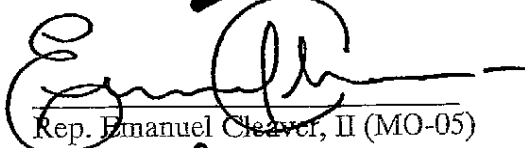
  
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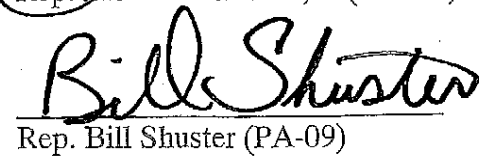
  
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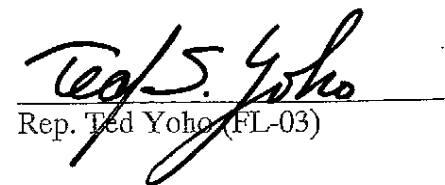
  
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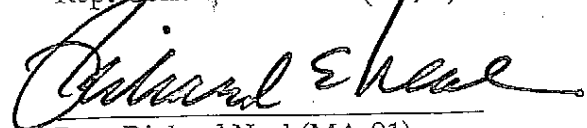
  
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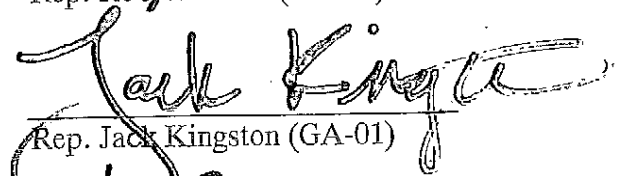
  
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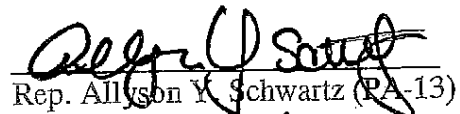
  
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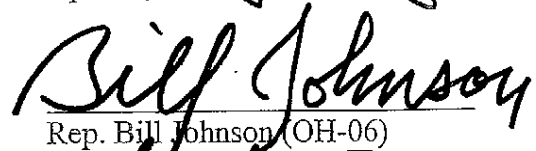
  
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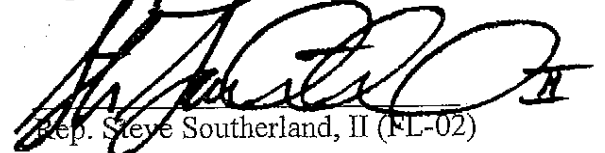
  
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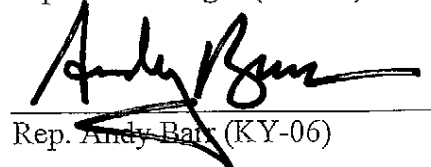
  
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Rep. Bill Johnson (OH-06)

  
Rep. Steve Southerland, II (FL-02)

  
Rep. Niki Tsongas (MA-03)

  
Rep. Andy Barr (KY-06)



Rep. Ron Barber (AZ-02)



Rep. Lois Capps (CA-24)



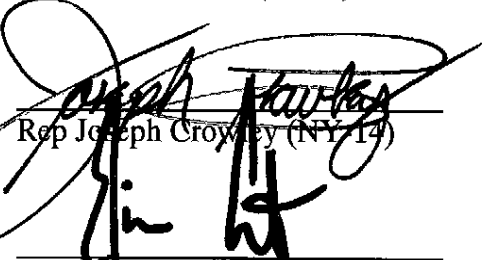
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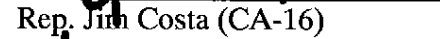
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Rep. Luke Messer (IN-06)



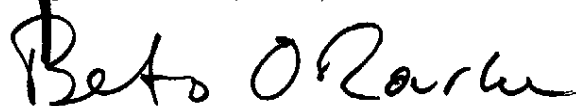
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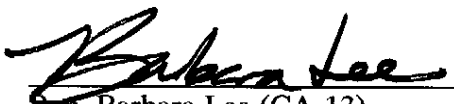
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Rep. Jim Himes (CT-04)




Rep. Beto O'Rourke (TX-16)



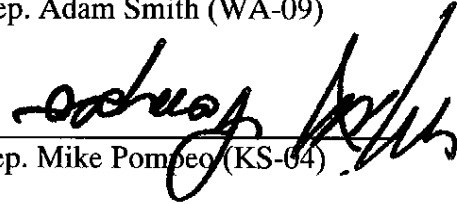
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Rep. Charles J. Fleischmann (TN-03)



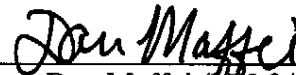
Rep. Adam Smith (WA-09)



Rep. Mike Pompeo (KS-04)



Rep. John K. Delaney (MD-06)



Rep. Dan Maffei (NY-24)



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Rep. Donald M. Payne (NJ-10)



Rep. Trey Radel (FL-19)



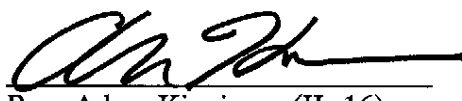
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Mo Brooks

Rep. Mo Brooks (AL-05)

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM-01)

Vicky Hartzler

Rep. Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)

Scott E. Rigell

Rep. Scott E. Rigell (VA-02)

Ted Deutch

Rep. Ted Deutch (FL-21)

Rob Bishop

Rep. Rob Bishop (UT-01)

Paul Cook

Rep. Paul Cook (CA-08)

Steve Scalise

Rep. Steve Scalise (LA-01)

Nim Gerlach

Rep. Nim Gerlach (PA-06)

Mark Takano

Rep. Mark Takano (CA-41)

Steve Womack

Rep. Steve Womack (AR-03)

Virginia Foxx

Rep. Virginia Foxx (NC-05)

Loretta Sanchez

Rep. Loretta Sanchez (CA-46)

Jackie Walorski

Rep. Jackie Walorski (IN-02)

Michael Honda

Rep. Michael Honda (CA-17)

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Rep. Peter J. Roskam (IL-06)

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Rep. Ann M. Kuster (NH-02)

Gus M. Bilirakis

Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis (FL-12)

Todd Young

Rep. Todd Young (IN-09)



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Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT-03)

Candice Miller  
Rep. Candice Miller (MI-10)

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