



January 16, 2014

The Honorable Jeff Miller  
U.S. House of Representatives  
335 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller,

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is pleased to offer our support for the *Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014*, which would give the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) the authority to remove an individual from the Senior Executive Service if the Secretary determines the individual's performance warrants displacement.

Performance numbers for certain regional offices throughout the country indicate that veterans are having to wait an unnecessary and excessive length of time regarding their claims. As the VA's backlog of disability claims significantly increased in 2013, many veterans were left wondering who was responsible for this mess and why were they not being held accountable for such poor performance measures.

Your legislation would grant the Secretary of the VA the authority to remove officials within the Senior Executive Service and thus, hold these individuals accountable for presiding over facilities that failed to meet VA's goals and expectations. By giving the Secretary of the VA this capability, your legislation will provide veterans with a sense that mismanagement and failure will no longer be tolerated or excused within the highest levels of VA leadership.

IAVA believes that veterans deserve the best care and benefits our country can offer. We are proud to offer our assistance and thank you for this meaningful legislation. If we can be of help, please contact Nick McCormick, IAVA's Legislative Associate, at (202) 544-7692 or [nickm@iava.org](mailto:nickm@iava.org).

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Paul Rieckhoff', is written over a light-colored background.

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