



**VADM Norbert R. Ryan, Jr. USN (Ret)**  
*President*

May 5, 2015

The Honorable Dean Heller  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Heller and Casey:

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers representing more than 390,000 officers and their spouses, writes to thank you for your leadership in sponsoring your draft legislation, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act.

Your legislation builds upon your work in the last session of Congress to advance practical, low-cost solutions to resolve the backlog of veterans' claims in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Your bill also sets out supporting initiatives that can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of procedures and practices to sustain the claims system for the future.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act includes provisions beneficial to our nation's veterans that will enable easier access to information on their claims through the eBenefits portal and speed access to hearings when they appeal a claim. The legislation also brings needed reforms to VA regional offices' practices that are designed to increase the accuracy and efficiency of their work on behalf of veterans and improve transparency. Additionally, your bill requires government agencies to cooperate in the collection and transmission of information needed by the VA to decide veterans' claims, and for other purposes.

MOAA is very grateful that your offices have actively consulted with us and our partner veteran service organizations to improve the draft legislation and make it responsive to the needs of our veterans.

MOAA pledges its full support for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act and thanks you again for your staunch commitment to those who have "borne the battle," our nation's veterans, their survivors and family members.

Sincerely, *9 Best Regards*  
*Norbert Ryan*