

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 2013

The President
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 – 681 days in Reno, 642 in New York, 625 in Pittsburgh, 619 in Los Angeles, 612 in Indianapolis, 586 in Houston, and 510 in Philadelphia. 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, the number of claims pending for over a year has grown by over 2000%, despite a 40% increase in the VA's budget. As a reminder, during this same time period, Congress has given VA everything it has asked for in terms of more funding and more employees; however, this has not eliminated the backlog of claims. 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,

Bob Casey, Jr.

Tom Harkin

Mark R Werner

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Angus King

Elizabeth Warren

Joe Donnelly

Tom Harkin

Newt Gingrich

John E. Risch

John McCain

Wendell Liebman

Pat Doomey

Ray Bennett

Tammy Baldwin

Sayby Chaubkin

Michael B. Enzi

Jerry Moran

Jeff Sessions

Mitch McConnell

Mark Begich

James Inhofe

John Bozman

Jeffrey A. Mackley

Maria Cantued / Danna Feinstein

Ma R
Quinn Hatch

Chuck Grasley
Pat King

Frank R. Laukberg / Debbie Peterson

Tom Carper

Don Villa

Jeanne Shaker / Clara Kim

Robert Hernandez

Shirone

Jay Ruppel

Cara McCasill

John Corry

Ben Curtis

Bob Wherry

Miguel & Arino

Red G

Paul Baker

Ron Wyder

Mike Croso

Lyndy Wick

Mark Taylor

John Thum

Kay R. Hagan

Susan Collins

Heidi Heitkamp

Tom Hank

Brian Schatz

Bill Nelson

Sara Durham

Lee Perchard

Jon Tester

Richard Blumenthal

Paul Manchillo

Harry Reid

Frank

Rob Portman

Kelly A. Ayotte

John

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Michael Enzi, Jerry Moran

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Bill Nelson, Dick Durbin

Lisa Murkowski, Jon Tester

Richard Blumenthal, Joe Manchin

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