

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

Ron Paul

Janis P. Risch

John McCain

Lucretia Johnson

Pat Romney

Ray Bennett

Timmy Baldwin

Sally Chutkan

Michael B. Enzi

Jerry Moran

Jeff Sessions

Mitch McConnell

Paul Begala

James P. ...

John Bozman

Jeffrey A. Mackley

Maria Cantued Diana Feinstein

Ma R

Chuck Grassley

Quin Hatch

Pat Roberts

Frank R. Lautenberg Debbie Stabenow

Tom Carper

Tim Wirth

Jeanne Shaheen Claire Kim

Robert Menendez

Shirley

Jay Byrnes

Cindy McCasill

John Cornyn

Ben Cardin

Bob Murray

Migui & Arino

Ted G

Paul Baker

Ron Wyder

Mike Crozer

Lyndy Wick

Mark Royce

John Stone

Kay R. Hagan

Susan Collins

Heidi Herkberg

Tom Hanki

Brian Schlegel

Bill Nelson

Steve Aulin

Lee Neuharth

Jon Tost

Richard Obman Ref

Lee Neuharth

Harry Reid

Frank

Rob Portman

Kelly A. Ayotte

Jim