



BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

477 H STREET NORTHWEST • WASHINGTON DC 20001-2694 • (202) 371-8880

March 20, 2013

The Honorable Dean Heller (R. NV.)
United States Senate
Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heller,

The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization exclusively dedicated to serving the needs of our nation's blinded veterans and their families for 68 years, fully supports your efforts and leadership in the introduction legislation on fixing the VA Benefits problem with the **"Accountability for Veterans Act of 2013."** According to the recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report from December 2012, federal agencies such as the Department of Defense, the Social security Administration, and the National Archives and Records Administration take far too long to respond to the VA with records and VA waits 60 days for responses before doing anything with the veterans claim.

Unfortunately these kinds of delays adds to the growing backlog of unresolved VA claims and so BVA strongly agrees that Department of Defense, SSA and other agencies must report as soon as possible to the VA and VBA must notify the veteran and keep accurate data base of those who are waiting for supporting documentation. Not only is the growing total backlog intolerable now, but the waiting times for processing claims for final decisions are completely unacceptable of over 273 days.

Again, the Blinded Veterans Association fully supports your legislative efforts with "Accountability for Veterans Act" to reduce the backlog waiting times, and we appreciate your strong commitment to assisting America's veterans in regards to this entire issue.

Sincerely,

Thomas Zampieri
Director Government Relations