

# The American Legion



OFFICE OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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May 5, 2015

Honorable Dean Heller  
United States Senate  
SH-324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heller:

On behalf of the 2.3 million members of The American Legion I would like to express support for the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act*, which provides multiple remedies for some of the problems plaguing the veterans' disability claims system. From the very beginning of your dedicated efforts to reform the disability claims process of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) you reached out to The American Legion, veterans' groups and the more than 2,900 accredited service officers who work on behalf of The American Legion to help veterans because of our unique insights into how to improve a struggling disability system.

According to The American Legion's Resolution No. 128, *Increase the Transparency of the Veterans benefits Administration's Claims Processing*, The American Legion supports better information for veterans about how the claims process is proceeding and how best to process their claims, and your legislation would improve that process. Your legislation includes enhancements to the Fully Developed Claims program, which The American Legion helped pioneer and which has helped reduced processing time for veterans across the country. There are also critical enhancements to increase veteran service organization participation in Transition Assistance Programs, which is critical to help our nation's service members as they leave active duty and become veterans.

The American Legion supports this measure and applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's service members and veterans.

Sincerely,  
  
MICHAEL D. HELM  
National Commander