

**Wounded Warrior Project**

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February 12, 2015

Senator Dean Heller  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patty Murray  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Heller and Murray:

Thank you for introducing the Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2015 (S.471). This bill would establish standards for caring for women at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities; ensure the availability of a full-time Obstetricians or Gynecologists at every VAMC; and pilot an OB-GYN graduate medical education program at VA to increase the quality and access to care for women veterans. Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) is proud to support this bill.

With the number of women serving in the military continuing to grow—and the percentage of women in the veteran population projected to almost double by 2040—gender remains a significant factor in healthcare access and long-term health outcomes. Women veterans are more likely to wait longer for care and to be referred outside the VA system than male veterans. Perceived lack of availability or adequacy of services based on lack of outreach also contributes to barriers to engagement of female veterans.

Women veterans have served honorably in the Armed Forces in far greater numbers since September 11, 2001, and that will only increase in the decade ahead. The time is now for VA to increase their capacity and capability in order to serve this veteran population now and in the future.

Thank you for taking the lead to introduce this important bill. We look forward to working with you and Congress on this bill to improve the lives and health outcomes of women veterans.

Sincerely,

Steven Nardizzi, Esq.  
CEO, Wounded Warrior Project

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