

December 20th, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney,

The National Military and Veterans Alliance, a non-partisan advocacy group comprised of the undersigned military and veteran service organizations, writes to encourage the Administration and Office of Management & Budget to fully fund the MISSION Act.

This transformational law is intended to provide the VA with a framework that will allow it to live up to its promise to deliver the earned benefits and healthcare that our veterans have earned. However, providing this framework must not be achieved at the expense of existing benefits for our veterans and their family members in the form of “pay fors” or “offsets.”

NMVA urges both the Administration and OMB to pay particular attention to the Community Care and Caregiver expansion provisions of the MISSION Act and to provide the resources and funding required to make these programs successful.

The Veterans Community Care Program aspect of the MISSION Act is intended to be a major advancement that will consolidate VA’s community care programs and strengthen VA by merging the Department’s tangled web of competing and confusing community care programs, including the Choice Program, into one system that is easier to navigate for Veterans. Most importantly, it will provide clear and consistent criteria under which Veterans will have quick access to community care, especially where VA medical facilities fail to meet access standards and standards for quality of care.

The expansion of the Caregiver program is intended to ease the financial burdens of veterans who were catastrophically injured or made ill prior to 9/11/2001. However, even before the program’s expansion has been implemented, we are seeing major issues such as current beneficiaries being downgraded or dropped from the program altogether. Failure to fully fund the expansion of the program will likely exacerbate these execution issues for those currently enrolled and will all but guarantee wide spread problems with the coordination of care for new enrollees.

During this period of transition from the VA’s current operational model through the implementation of the systems, standards, and programs mandated by the MISSION Act, success will depend upon funding. Failure to fully fund the MISSION Act will ensure that the potential of this transformative legislation is never realized and finding “pay fors” at

the expense of other veteran programs will only serve to create new problems that we will all be forced to address in the future.

Our veterans and their family members deserve the full implementation of the MISSION Act and are counting on you to provide the funding it will require.

NMVA thanks you for your leadership and your support of America's military and its veterans.

Sincerely,



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#### **National Military and Veterans Alliance Member Organizations Supporting this Letter**

American Military Society  
American Retirees Association  
Armed Forces Marketing Council  
Armed Forces Retirees Association  
AMVETS  
Army and Navy Union  
Association of the United States Navy  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard  
The Independence Fund  
Military Order of Foreign Wars  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Military Order of World Wars  
Reserve Officer Association  
Sea Service Family Foundation  
The Retired Enlisted Association