

January 31st, 2019

The Honorable Julia Brownly
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Brownley,

The National Military and Veterans Alliance, a non-partisan advocacy group comprised of the member organizations below, writes to offer its support for H.R. 96: The Dental Care for Veterans Act. This bill would expand eligibility for dental care to all veterans enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare system.

Current law limits eligibility for VA dental care to veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 100%, veterans with a service-connected dental condition, former prisoners of war, and homeless veterans. Dental care is also available if a dental condition is aggravating a service-connected condition or complicates treatment of that condition. Those who do not fall within these categories cannot access dental care from the VA, making dental care too expensive for many veterans.

Your legislation would eliminate the current statutory eligibility restrictions for VA dental care and expand eligibility for VA dental care to all veterans enrolled in the system. Dental care would become a part of the standard medical benefits package for all enrolled veterans. H.R. 96 will improve the physical health and welfare of our veterans by ensuring that veterans' dental records are maintained in VA's electronic health records system. This will allow VA healthcare providers to see the dental records of veterans who receive care outside of the VA or as part of the VA's Community Care programs and, as a result, be better able to associate major health issues with a veteran's dental health.

NMVA pledges our support and assistance for this bill and we thank you for your leadership on this issue and your commitment to our veterans. We look forward to working with you on this bill and on all issues involving our military, veterans, retirees and their family members.

Sincerely,



Ted Painter
Co-Director
National Military & Veterans Alliance
Executive Director
Armed Forces Retirees Association
508-335-3616
painter@armedforcesretirees.org



Aleks Morosky
Co-Director
National Military & Veterans Alliance
National Legislative Director
Military Order of the Purple Heart
703-642-5360 Ext. 117
aleksmorosky@purpleheart.org

National Military and Veterans Alliance Member Organizations Supporting this Letter

American Military Society
American Retirees Association
AMVETS
Armed Forces Retirees Association
Army and Navy Union
Association of the United States Navy
Healing Household 6
Military Order of Foreign Wars
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Sea Service Family Foundation
Society of Military Widows
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors