

April 29th, 2019

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
406 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Drew Ferguson
U.S. House of Representatives
1032 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Thompson and Ferguson,

The National Military & Veterans Alliance, a nonpartisan advocacy group comprised of the undersigned military and veteran service organizations, writes to thank you for your leadership and support of our nation's veterans as demonstrated by your bi-partisan introduction of H.R. 2371: Health Equity and Access for Returning Troops and Servicemembers (HEARTS) Act of 2019.

Currently, the interaction between Social Security's disability program and the TRICARE program inadvertently ends up penalizing wounded veterans who return to work after recovering from severe injuries. As a result, many of our most seriously injured veterans eventually lose access to their traditional, affordable, TRICARE and cannot regain it for years if they return to work.

The HEARTS act addresses this unintended inequity and will end the requirement that wounded veterans who return to work must pay for Medicare coverage to keep access to TRICARE. This will ensure they have access to the best possible health care as they re-enter the workforce after recovering from wounds sustained in the service of our nation.

The National Military and Veterans Alliance sincerely appreciates your willingness to recognize the seriousness of this health care issue and we steadfastly support your efforts to improve the lives of our most seriously disabled veterans through the introduction of the HEARTS Act of 2019. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with your offices and we welcome the opportunity to continue working with you on this and other military and/or veteran related issues.

Sincerely,



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National Military and Veterans Alliance Member Organizations Supporting this Legislation

American Military Society
American Retirees Association
AMVETS
Armed Forces Marketing Council
Armed Forces Retirees Association
Army and Navy Union
Association of the United States Navy
Military Order of Foreign Wars
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Order of World Wars
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Reserve Officers Association
Sea Service Family, Foundation
Society of Military Widows
The Independence Fund
The Retired Enlisted Association
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
VetsFirst
Vietnam Veterans of America