

19 May 2015

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

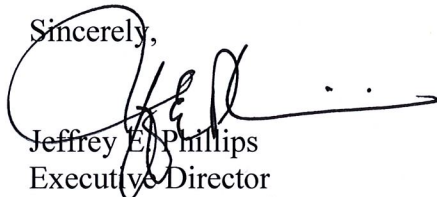
Dear Senator Merkley:

The Reserve Officers Association supports the bill titled, the *Veterans Health Care Staffing Improvement Act*. This bill proposes ways to improve veterans care by proposing solutions that bring resources to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

ROA appreciates that the “Docs-to-Doctors” Program is specifically written to include Guard and Reserve members who serve or “. . . served in a health care capacity while serving as a member of the Armed Forces.” This will ensure Reserve Component members are given an opportunity to work for Veterans Affairs, thereby allowing veterans to serve veterans. The consistent complaint we hear from our members is how long it takes to get hired by the government after they apply for a position. This bill includes the authority for a more expeditious hiring process which can only help the success of the “Docs-to-Doctors” Program.

ROA has a membership of more than 50,000, which represents all the uniformed services of the United States who would be favorably affected by your bill. Thank you for your efforts on this issue, and past support to the military. Please have your staff call Susan Lukas, ROA's legislative director, at 202-646-7713 or by e-mail at slukas@roa.org if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey E. Phillips
Executive Director