

May 22, 2017

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
Chairman
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

The Honorable Jon Tester
Ranking Member
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

Dear Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Tester,

The National Military and Veterans Alliance, a non-partisan advocacy group consisting of numerous military and veterans service organizations, writes in support of S. 1094, *the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017*, introduced by Senator Marco Rubio. This bipartisan legislation will provide the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the personnel authority he needs to fire bad employees, protect whistleblowers, and better protect veterans from the criminal acts of some VA employees.

For more than three years, American veterans and families, our organizations' members, have languished while criminal and malfeasant VA employees scoff at their responsibilities and the needs of their customer veterans, all while the Secretary is unable to do anything because of antiquated personnel rules designed to protect jobs rather than protect veterans. These VA employees are able to avoid responsibility for their actions, game the VA bonus system, keep their jobs even after failing to do their jobs, and even get promoted rather than face the consequences for their acts.

S. 1094, *the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017*, moves the VA system towards greater personnel reform, and is a significant advancement towards VA accountability. We the undersigned organizations of NMVA, want these bad employees fired, and believe this bill will provide Secretary Shulkin that authority as quickly as possible.

On behalf of the millions of service members, Guard and reserve, veterans, survivors, caregivers, and military family members who currently or may come to rely on the VA for health care and other earned benefits, we respectfully urge your Committee to favorably report this bill out of the Committee at the earliest opportunity, and to encourage your fellow Senators to support its final passage.

Sincerely,



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National Military and Veterans Alliance Member Organizations Supporting S. 1094

American Logistics Association
American Military Retirees Association
American Military Society
American Retirees Association
AMVETS
Army Navy Union
Association of the United States Navy
Military Order of Foreign Wars
Military Order of the Purple Heart
National Defense Committee
National Enlisted Reserve Association
Reserve Officers Association
Society of Military Widows
Square Deal for Veterans
The Flag and General Officers Network
The Retired Enlisted Association
Vietnam Veterans of America