



The National Voice for Direct-Care RNs

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Dear Senator/Representative,

On behalf of the 185,000 registered nurses who are members of National Nurses United, including those working at 22 Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, I am dismayed that Congress has not yet finalized legislation to ensure that veterans get quality care in a timely fashion.

As you well know, the VA is suffering from a tragic lack of resources that leads to delays in care, it spends resources in ways that do not benefit veterans, it has an insufficient number of bedside nurses, and it does not sufficiently empower front line caregivers to act as patient advocates. Legislation to address these shortfalls is long overdue and must be moved before Congress recesses.

Our nation cannot send our troops into harm's way without a full commitment to caring for our returning service members in a timely fashion and with sufficient resources. The Senate passed S. 2450 two weeks ago and the House passed legislation last fall, and yet the conference committee still has not fashioned a unified bill. It is time for action. Congress must immediately provide adequate funding for the front line staff, facilities, equipment and materials to ensure that veterans get the care they need by reconciling the two bills in conference committee, passing the reconciled bill in the House and Senate and sending it to the President for his signature. We urge you to agree to the Senate's version of the bill which provides emergency funds that don't have to be financed with other cuts.

Registered nurses call on you to pass legislation to ensure that our nation's veterans get prompt, quality health care before you leave for the Independence Day recess.

Yours sincerely,

Irma Westmoreland
Veterans Affairs Chair, NNU