



Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Honorable Phil Roe
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Chairman Roe:

On behalf of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), I would like to offer our support for the "VA Accountability First Act." PVA appreciates the strong focus on accountability that the Committee has emphasized and we are pleased to see that the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) leadership team has made this a priority as well. There is no doubt that accountability at all levels is an essential part of improving the VA.

As you are aware, PVA has supported efforts to ensure proper accountability at all levels of the VA in the past. Unfortunately, in recent years there have been numerous accounts of bad actors in VA senior management (and frankly lower level management) who have failed to fulfill the responsibility of their positions and in some cases arguably violated the law. The focus on accountability in this proposal strikes a reasonable balance to ensure VA leadership has the ability to manage personnel while affording due process protections to VA employees. We recognize that the question of due process is an important one, and those rights should not be eliminated. However, they cannot be used as a roadblock to accountability either.

As Dr. Shulkin stated in his confirmation hearing:

"The VA needs change...It needs to advance its culture of accountability and eliminate those from the system that have lost their commitment to doing what is right for our veterans..."

We completely agree. Mr. Chairman, we applaud your commitment to strong accountability and we look forward to working with you to ensure real accountability is achieved.

Respectfully,

Carl Blake
Associate Executive Director
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Paralyzed Veterans of America