

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Charlie Dent  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Military  
Construction and Veterans Affairs  
Committee on Appropriations  
HVC-227, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Military  
Construction and Veterans Affairs  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dent and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz:

In the Fiscal Year 2017 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, Congress took important steps to improve the scope of health care available to severely wounded veterans. During mark-up, the Senate Appropriations Committee overwhelmingly approved an amendment offered by Senator Murray to allow VA to use existing funds to cover adoption assistance, and fertility counseling and treatment, including in vitro fertilization (IVF). Your engagement on this issue throughout the FY17 process helped ensure this provision would become law and we thank you for your efforts on behalf of our nation's veterans.

As you prepare this year's bill, we urge you to build on this bipartisan success. We respectfully request that the Committee extend the current policy through 2019 and appropriate sufficient funds to provide these services to eligible veterans. A partial cost estimate came from the VHA, which reported to the Appropriations Committees that covering IVF would cost \$84.3 million in the first year and would be "consistent with VA's goal to restore the capabilities of Veterans to the greatest extent possible and to improve Veterans' quality of life."

America's women and men in uniform sacrifice much on our behalf. If injured in the line of duty, they should not have to sacrifice their dreams of having a family. We are looking forward to working with you to improve the care available to our nation's veterans by extending these authorities, including the authority to provide IVF, and appropriating necessary funds.

Sincerely,



Rep. Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Rep. Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress