Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May, 28 2013

President Barack Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request that you take direct action and involvement in ending the current Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability claims backlog.

After a decade of war, and despite the VA's efforts to modernize, more than 600,000 veterans are still stuck in the VA's disability claims backlog. While the average wait time for first time disability claims currently ranges between 316 and 327 days, veterans in certain parts of the country are waiting even longer – 625 in Pittsburgh, 510 in Philadelphia, 681 in Reno and Las Vegas, 619 days in Los Angeles, 612 in Indianapolis, 586 in Houston and 642 in New York. In the worst cases, veterans have waited and continue to wait 800 days, 900 days, and even more than 1000 days for a disability claims decision from the VA.

In the last four years, claims pending over a year have grown by 2000%, despite a 40% increase in the VA's budget. Solving this problem is critical for veterans of all generations. We need direct and public involvement from you to establish a clear plan to end the backlog once and for all.

This country must be grateful for the safe homecoming of every single man and woman who has served in harm's way. Our joy at their return must be reflected in our commitment to helping all who have served. We respectfully ask you and your administration to find a solution that ensures that no veterans are stuck in the VA backlog.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Coffman

Rep. Mike Coffman (CO-06)

Patrick Murphy

Rep. Patrick Murphy (FL-18)

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Chairman Jeff Miller (FL-01)

Chairman Buck McKeon (CA-25)

Rep. Walter B. Jones (NC-03)

Rep. Madeleine S. Bordallo (GU)

Rep. Jon Runyan (NJ-03)

Rep. Jim Bridenstine (OK-01)

Rep. Scott R. Tipton (CO-03)

Rep. Kristi L. Noem (SD-At Large)

Rep. Stevan Pearce (NM-02)

Rep. Steven M. Palazzo (MS-04)

Rep. Denny Heck (WA-10)

Rep. Glenn Thompson (PA-05)

Rep. Cory Gardner (CO-04)

Rep. Cynthia Lummis (WY-At Large)

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02)

Rep. Michael G. Grimm (NY-11)

Rep. Steve King (IA-04)

Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (AZ-03)

Rep. Steve Chabot (OH-01)

Rep. Brad R. Wenstrup (OH-02)

Rep. Justin Amash (MI-03)

Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-02)

Rep. Pete Olson (TX-22)

Rep. Dennis A. Ross (FL-15)

Rep. Cedric L. Richmond (LA-02)

Rep. Brian Higgins (NY-26)

Rep. Peter A. DeFazio (OR-04)

Rep. John Lewis (GA-05)

Rep. William L. Owens (NY-21)

Rep. Terri A. Sewell (AL-07)

Rep. David G. Reichert (WA-08)

Rep. Kevin Cramer (ND-At Large)

Rep. Bill Cassidy (LA-06)

Rep. Renee L. Ellmers (NC-02)

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (OH-09)

Rep. Donna M. Christensen (VI)

Rep. Gloria McLeod (CA-35)

Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (NH-01)

Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (NM-03)

Rep. Tim Ryan (OH-13)

Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (NY-04)

Rep. Patrick Murphy (FL-18)

Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-01)

Rep. Aaron Schock (IL-18)

Rep. Lynn A. Westmoreland (GA-03)

Rep. Janice Hahn (CA-44)

Rep. Don Young (AK-At Large)

Rep. David P. Roe (TN-01)

Rep. Bill Flores (TX-17)

Rep. Markwayne Mullin (OK-02)

Rep. Blake Farenthold (TX-27)

Rep. Richard L. Hanna (NY-22)

Rep. Kevin Brady (TX-08)

Rep. Ander Crenshaw (FL-04)

Rep. Paul Tonko (NY-20)

Rep. David Loebsack (IA-02)

Rep. John Conyers Jr. (MI-13)

Rep. James B. Renacci (OH-16)

Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25)

Rep. Tom Rice (SC-07)

Rep. Randy J. Forbes (VA-04)

Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (TX-15)

Rep. Patrick J. Tiberi (OH-12)

Rep. Keith J. Rothfus (PA-12)

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30)

Rep. Bobby L. Rush (IL-01)

Rep. Tom Marino (PA-10)

Rep. Chris Stewart (UT-02)

Rep. Tom Cole (OK-04)

Rep. Derek Kilmer (WA-06)

Rep. Robert E. Latta (OH-05)

Rep. Robert A. Brady (PA-01)

Rep. Tim Griffin (AR-02)

Rep. Austin Scott (GA-08)

Rep. Pete Gallego (TX-23)

Rep. Kerry Bentivolio (MI-11)

Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO-05)

Rep. Shelly Capito (WV-02)

Rep. Scott Perry (PA-04)

Rep. Susan Brooks (IN-05)

Rep. Eric Swalwell (CA-15)

Rep. Bill Huizenga (MI-02)

Rep. Albio Sires (NJ-08)

Rep. Daniel Lipinski (IL-03)

Rep. Zoe Lofgren (CA-19)

Rep. Dan Benishek (MI-01)

Rep. Todd Rokita (IN-04)

Rep. Joe Courtney (CT-02)

Rep. Howard Coble (NC-06)

Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (PA-08)

Rep. Rodney Davis (IL-13)

Rep. Suzan DelBene (WA-01)

Rep. Gene Green (TX-29)

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA-03)

Rep. Jim Matheson (UT-04)

Rep. Phil Gingrey (GA-11)

Rep. Doc Hastings (WA-04)

Rep. Vern Buchanan (FL-16)

Rep. Gary G. Miller (CA-31)

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO-05)

Rep. Bill Shuster (PA-09)

Rep. Ted Yoho (FL-03)

Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (HI-01)

Rep. Richard Neal (MA-01)

Rep. Rob Wittman (VA-01)

Rep. Jack Kingston (GA-01)

Rep. John Shimkus (IL-15)

Rep. Adam B. Schiff (CA-28)

Rep. Allyson Y. Schwartz (PA-13)

Rep. Bill Johnson (OH-06)

Rep. Steve Southerland, II (FL-02)

Rep. Niki Tsongas (MA-05)

Rep. Andy Barr (KY-06)

Rep. Ron Barber (AZ-02)

Rep. Lois Capps (CA-24)

Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12)

Rep. David P. Joyce (OH-14)

Rep. Luke Messer (IN-06)

Rep Joseph Crowley (NY-14)

Rep. Jim Costa (CA-16)

Rep. Jim Himes (CT-04)

Rep. Beto O'Rourke (TX-16)

Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-13)

Rep. Charles J. Fleischmann (TN-03)

Rep. Adam Smith (WA-09)

Rep. Mike Pompeo (KS-04)

Rep. John K. Delaney (MD-06)

Rep. Dan Maffei (NY-24)

Rep. Bruce Braley (IA-01)

Rep. Donald M. Payne Jr.

Rep. Trey Radel (FL-19)

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01)

Rep. Joseph Kennedy, III (MA-04)

Rep. Scott Peters (CA-52)

Rep. Adam Kinzinger (IL-16)

Rep. Mo Brooks (AL-05)

Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM-01)

Rep. Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)

Rep. Scott E. Rigell (VA-02)

Rep. Ted Deutch (FL-21)

Rep. Rob Bishop (UT-01)

Rep. Paul Cook (CA-08)

Rep. Steve Scalise (LA-01)

Rep. Jim Gerlach (PA-06)

Rep. Mark Takano (CA-41)

Rep. Steve Womack (AR-03)

Rep. Virginia Foxx (NC-05)

Rep. Loretta Sanchez (CA-46)

Rep. Jackie Walorski (IN-02)

Rep. Michael Honda (CA-17)

Rep. Mike McIntyre (NC-07)

Rep. Mark E. Amodei (NV-02)

Rep. Timothy H. Bishop (NY-01)

Rep. Peter J. Roskam (IL-06)

Rep. Ann M. Kuster ((NH-02)

Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis (FL-12)

Rep. Todd Young (IN-09)

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT-03)

Rep. Candice Miller (MI-10)