

Wounded Warrior Project

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March 5, 2021

The Honorable Mark Takano
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Bost
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Takano and Ranking Member Bost:

On behalf of Wounded Warrior Project's community of over 150,000 warriors and 38,000 of their family members, I write to express our support for H.R. 1276, the *VA VACCINE Act*. We applaud your leadership on introducing this important piece of legislation which will expand VA's ability to provide COVID-19 vaccines to veterans and their caregivers who may not otherwise be eligible.

In December 2020, we wrote the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Acting Secretary of Defense, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommending that severely injured veterans and their caregivers, who are essential care workers, are considered a core constituency in the phase vaccination protocols. While we continue to emphasize the need to vaccinate these wounded warriors and their caregivers as soon as possible, this bill will ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains the ability to prioritize vaccine distribution and extend its service to a large community of at-risk veterans, and a significant number of caregivers attending to the needs of many severely wounded, ill, and injured veterans. Passing this legislation will align our public health resources with our support for those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

I want to again thank you for your dedication and commitment to those who serve. Wounded Warrior Project looks forward to working with you and your staffs to ensure we pass this critical piece of legislation. We also look forward to working with you on other veteran related bills going forward. Please feel free to direct your staff to Mr. Brian Dempsey, Government Affairs Director, as he will help lead our efforts. Mr. Dempsey can be reached at 904-465-6903 or via e-mail at bdempsey@woundedwarriorproject.org.

Sincerely,

Jose Ramos
Vice President
for Government and Community Relations

DUTY ★ HONOR ★ COURAGE ★ COMMITMENT ★ INTEGRITY ★ COUNTRY ★ SERVICE

