

DEMOCRATS

MARK TAKANO, CALIFORNIA, CHAIRMAN

JULIA BROWNLEY, CALIFORNIA  
KATHLEEN M. RICE, NEW YORK  
CONOR LAMB, PENNSYLVANIA  
MIKE LEVIN, CALIFORNIA  
ANTHONY BRINDISI, NEW YORK  
MAX ROSE, NEW YORK  
CHRIS PAPPAS, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
ELAINE G. LURIA, VIRGINIA  
SUSIE LEE, NEVADA  
JOE CUNNINGHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA  
GILBERT R. CISNEROS, JR., CALIFORNIA  
COLLIN C. PETERSON, MINNESOTA  
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
COLIN Z. ALLRED, TEXAS  
LAUREN UNDERWOOD, ILLINOIS

RAY KELLEY  
STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

B-234 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

REPUBLICANS

DAVID P. ROE, TENNESSEE, RANKING

GUS M. BILIRAKIS, FLORIDA  
AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN, AMERICAN SAMOA  
MIKE BOST, ILLINOIS  
NEAL P. DUNN, FLORIDA  
JACK BERGMAN, MICHIGAN  
JIM BANKS, INDIANA  
ANDY BARR, KENTUCKY  
DAN MEUSER, PENNSYLVANIA  
STEVE WATKINS, KANSAS  
CHIP ROY, TEXAS  
W. GREGORY STEUBE, FLORIDA

JON TOWERS  
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

July 19, 2019

The Honorable Mark Takano  
Chairman  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
B234 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Takano:

We write to request that you schedule a legislative hearing on H.R. 3788, the VA Child Care Protection Act, as soon as possible. The bill would ensure that those who have been charged with a serious crime - such as sexual or physical assault of a child - are prevented from caring for veterans' children until their case is resolved.

As you know, the House passed H.R. 840, as amended, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis earlier this year. That bill would permanently extend the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) child care program and expand it across the VA healthcare system. The lack of child care is a barrier to care for veterans, especially women veterans, so we were proud to work with you on that legislation. However, we believe that that bill does not go far enough in protecting the safety of the children who will be cared for in the VA child care program. While the bill would prohibit someone from caring for veterans' children if they have been convicted of certain serious offenses, it would allow someone who has been charged with one of those same offenses but whose case is still pending free rein to care for veterans' children in the program. While we do not want to presume guilt for an individual who has been charged with a serious crime, we also do not want to leave vulnerable children defenseless against potential predators while their case proceeds through the criminal justice system.

During Floor consideration of H.R. 840, you and many of your colleagues spoke movingly about the importance of preserving the safety of children in the VA. We wholeheartedly agree with you and look forward to your prompt consideration of this request on their behalf.

Sincerely,



David P. Roe  
Member of Congress



Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen  
Member of Congress



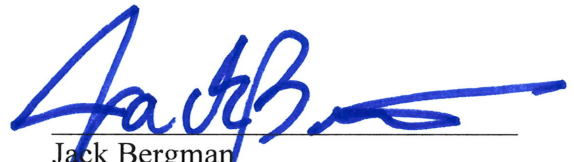
Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



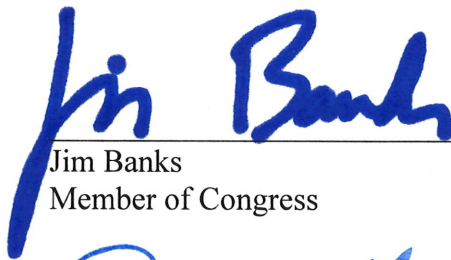
Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



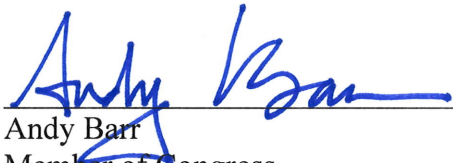
Neal P. Dunn  
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



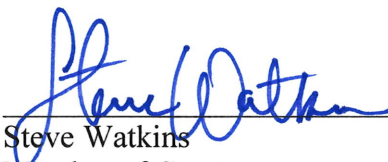
Jim Banks  
Member of Congress



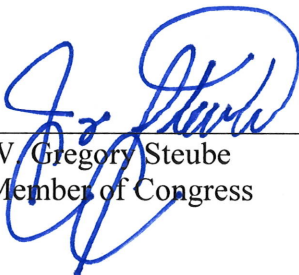
Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



Daniel Meuser  
Member of Congress



Steve Watkins  
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress