

Chris Reid

From: k8819tejk@netscape.net
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 5:53 AM
To: Chris Reid
Subject: Leeter of Agreement

Thomas E. Kopaceski

99687-1116

February 13, 2009 P. O. Box 871115 Wasilla, Ak.

Dear Representative David Guttenberg,

Since I am a Viet Nam veteran, I have reviewed HJR10 Resolution. I am in total support of HJR10.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Kopaceski

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110608
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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
and ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

February 10, 2009

Representative David Guttenberg
Alaska State Capitol, Room 418
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support for HJR 10

Representative Guttenberg:

The Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the Alaska Mental Health Board appreciate your recognition of our nation's responsibility to our returning veterans and military service members. We support HJR 10 calling for a comprehensive national response to our service members' health care needs and offer our assistance in helping to pass this important resolution.

We respectfully recommend the inclusion of a specific provision to address the behavioral health needs of veterans and returning service members. We also recommend specifically including tribal health organizations as an important resource in the coordination of care for returning service members, since many Alaskan veterans return to rural communities served exclusively by tribal health organizations. We also would strongly recommend that any expansion of veterans' health care services be carefully constructed so as not to result in a reduction of services already being provided to veterans with service-connected disabilities.

We respectfully offer the following language to be considered as a possible amendment to the resolution:

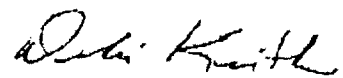
27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the United
28 States Department of Veterans Affairs to create a special health pass or "heroes health card"
29 to provide veterans with health care in local communities by coordinating care provided by
30 local doctors, [and] community health care facilities, community mental health centers and
31 substance abuse treatment centers, and tribal health organizations with care provided by
32 military doctors and medical facilities.

We appreciate your advocacy on behalf of our military service members and look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Lonnie Walters, Chair
ABADA



Debi Keith, Chair
AMHB

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Alaska Commission on Aging

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110693
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February 23, 2009

The Honorable Carl Gatto
House Military and Veterans' Affairs
Alaska State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Subject: Support for HJR 10

Dear Chair Gatto:

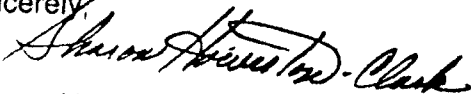
The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) encourages support for HJR 10 sponsored by Representative Guttenberg, Representative Kawasaki, Representative Salmon, Representative Kerttula, Representative Gruenberg, and Representative Cissna that encourages the United States Congress to improve health care and access for veterans. ACoA supports this resolution and its intent for Congress to provide sufficient, timely, and stable funding for veterans' health programs and to improve service delivery.

Health care is a key benefit of the services provided to persons who served in the armed forces. The number of veterans returning from military duty, in addition to veterans who are aging, is increasing along with the associated health care expenses. Although Alaska has the highest per capita population of veterans in the nation, our state remains as one of three states in the nation without a veterans' hospital that provides acute care inpatient services.

Moreover, Alaskan veterans come from all areas of the state. Veteran clinic facilities are located only in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Kenai. If a veteran lives outside of these areas and his/her medical condition is not 51% or more service-related, that individual is responsible for paying their own travel expenses. The Commission on Aging supports the Resolution's recommendation of a special "Heroes Health Card" to provide veterans access to health care in communities where they live, including those without veteran clinic facilities, by coordinating care provided by local medical providers and community health care facilities with care provided by military doctors and medical facilities.

ACoA supports HJR 10 and believes that veterans who served our country deserve decent health care. It is our responsibility and obligation to provide quality and accessible health care for veterans who joined the armed forces to serve and protect our nation. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director (465-4879), should you have any questions regarding our position. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sharon Howerton-Clark
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello,
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Representative Harris
Representative Olson
Representative Buch

Representative Lynn
Representative Ramras
Representative Kawasaki

Alaska Primary Care Association

"...uncompromising in the pursuit of access to primary care for all Alaskans."



Honorable Carl Gatto, Chair
House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau, Alaska 99801

February 24, 2009

Re: Support of HJR 10 *Veterans' Health Care*

Dear (H)MVA Chair, Representative Gatto,

The Alaska Primary Care Association (APCA) works to promote primary care access for all Alaskans and is strongly in support of HJR 10 *Veterans' Health Care*. Many of the veterans in Alaska reside in medically underserved areas; with the current funding levels and criteria for VA sponsored health care, many of our Alaskan veterans do not have adequate primary care access. When the medical condition is not service-related and does not exceed a certain degree of disability, these veterans in outlying areas have primarily three choices: 1) cover their own expenses to fly in to Anchorage or Fairbanks to access VA care; 2) go without care; or 3) access services at a non-VA clinic, very likely to be one of the 141 Community Health Center (CHC) sites in the state.

For those veterans who opt for the third choice above, often, the CHC does not receive reimbursement because the veteran did not file the necessary paperwork in advance. The CHC typically eats the cost. The APCA is working at this time with the Alaska VA Health Care System to increase access for all the veterans who live in areas outside of the vicinity of the VA clinics, including all the veterans who have gone without but need care and all those who have had limited care because of the cost of travel.

It is very important that Congress adequately fund VA health care so that veterans from every corner of Alaska have appropriate access – all veterans, those returning from the current conflict with pressing issues as well as those who served previously and are experiencing increasing health care needs as they age. The APCA urges congress to utilize the CHC infrastructure across Alaska rather than duplicate services by establishing new VA clinics where there is already a CHC.

The Alaska Primary Care adamantly supports HJR 10 and appreciates the Alaska State Legislature working to promote health care access for veterans throughout the state by passing this important resolution in order to communicate this priority to the U.S. Congress.

Supporting health care for Alaska's veterans,

Regan Mattingly
State Affairs Coordinator

Shelley S. Hughes
Government Affairs Director

Marilyn Kasmar
Executive Director