

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on
Appropriations and Subcommittee on
Military Construction, Veterans
Affairs, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military
Construction, Veterans Affairs, and
Related Agencies

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell, Chair Murray, and Senators Collins and Boozman:

In July of this year, many of the below organizations wrote to endorse the inclusion in the House Committee on Rules' reported Rule on H.R. 4366, the *Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024*, of the Rules Committee Amendment 23, Version 2 – sponsored by Representative Bost of Illinois – to prohibit “the VA from using funds to submit a beneficiary’s name to the NICS list based on VA's appointment of a fiduciary.” We also endorsed the amendment’s adoption by the House into the final House-passed version of the bill. We were truly heartened by the Senate including an almost identical provision in its version of the FY24 MILCON-VA Appropriations Bill.

As we detailed back then, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA's) Fiduciary program is a testament to the threat the unchecked regulatory powers of the Executive Branch can pose to the inalienable rights of the People, in this case, to the rights of disabled veterans to due process under the law, and to keep and bear arms. A copy of that original letter is attached here, but we were pleased both the House and Senate adopted amendments to prevent the VA from continuing to unjustly and unconstitutionally abrogate American veterans' right to keep and bear arms, all without any judicial action.

We repeat the belief the entire VA Fiduciary program must be fundamentally reformed to address the significant civil and legal right abuses the Fiduciary program itself represents for America's veterans, but given this amendment, and an almost identical one in the Senate, were both adopted to their respective Chamber's version of the *Fiscal Year 2024 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act*, any attempt to remove those provisions from the final version to be passed into law, or to add additional provisions such as “Red Flag Law” or other new gun control provisions, would be a gross breach of trust with the majority of the Members of the Senate who adopted this legislation, and would indicate a gross abuse of legislative power by the Senate. We implore you to keep this provision in the VA's final FY25 appropriations act.

Very Respectfully,

National Defense Committee
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Vets 4 Vet Leadership
Armed Forces Retirees Association
Ranger Leadership Policy Center
Arizona Veterans
Association of the United States Navy
TREA: The Enlisted Association
Catholic War Veterans of the United States of
America