

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

February 11, 2015

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20571

Dear Secretary McDonald,

I respectfully invite you to visit the 17th Congressional District of Illinois and provide a much-needed update to local veterans on the Department of Veterans Affairs' continued efforts to reduce the backlog of compensation and disability claims and provide them with the quality healthcare they earned and deserve.

Issues facing our veterans and service members are a top priority, and I frequently meet with the brave men and women I'm privileged to represent in order to better understand their needs and concerns. All too often, their stories underscore the painful human impact of mismanaged claims, erroneous disability ratings and undue delays in access to care and earned benefits.

As the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, you are in a unique position to restore their faith in the system. I hope you take me up on this opportunity to speak with our veterans first-hand and share the strides you have made towards reducing the backlog and improving access to healthcare.

I am excited by the prospect of hosting you in my Congressional District, which is home to over 55,600 veterans, one of the highest concentrations in the State of Illinois. While I understand that much progress has been made, the claims backlog and access to healthcare remain critical issues for those I serve.

I look forward to your reply to my invitation, and should you or anyone on your staff have any questions or concerns, please contact Steffanie Bezruki at (202) 225-5905 or Steffanie.Bezruki@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress