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

July 25, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Speaker Boehner,

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, urge you to not let the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives go out of session prior to a successful resolution to the Conference Committee that was formed to work out a compromise between the Senate and House versions of the *Veteran Access to Care Act*, and its subsequent passage in both chambers of Congress.

The health of the veterans who have served us so bravely should not be placed on the back burner while Congress is away during the August district work period. Our veterans have served the nation with honor, and we owe it to them to waste no more time in ensuring they have access to the best health care possible. In light of recent serious complications and allegations of wrong-doing within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in addition to validated long wait times at VA medical facilities, it is extremely urgent that a fix be put into place as soon as possible.

Both the Senate and House versions would expand veterans' ability to seek care at non-VA facilities under certain conditions, strengthen Congress' oversight of the VA and eliminate performance-related bonuses for VA employees. We need to address the overwhelmed VA and ensure all veterans get the care they have earned through their service to our country. Our veterans deserve nothing but the very best.

Again, this issue is far too serious to wait, and we encourage a swift resolution to be found by remaining in session until a suitable compromise bill can be passed out of both chambers. Let's put our nations' veterans, who have sacrificed so much for our freedoms, first.

Sincerely,

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Joe Garcia
Member of Congress

Pete P. Gallego
Member of Congress

Ron Barber
Member of Congress

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Nick J. Rahall II
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Ann M. Kuster
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress

C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Bruce L. Braley
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress

Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

John Barrow
Member of Congress

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress

James A. Himes
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

William L. Owens
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Daniel B. Maffei
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Colleen W. Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
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John Lewis
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Luis V. Gutiérrez
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Jim Costa
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Earl Blumenauer
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Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
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Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress