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Fighting for Veterans & Taxpayers!

Dear Friend:

As June's first legislative week comes to an end, I appreciate you taking the time to read this update. As always, it's an honor to work for you!

On Wednesday, the President signed into law [S. 2372, the 'VA MISSION Act of 2018'](#). I first wrote to you about this bill in mid-May. I strongly supported the passage of this bipartisan bill because it overhauls the delivery of community health care for our nation's veterans and extends the CHOICE program for an additional year. Our veterans rightfully expect the Department of Veteran Affairs to provide them the medical care that they have earned through their military service. They also rightly expect to receive timely care that is high in quality, and is accessible. The VA Mission Act provides for major reforms and improvements designed to do just that for our veterans. I am proud that Senators and Representatives, both Republicans and Democrats, were able to reach a consensus on this bill.



President Trump signing the 'VA Mission Act of 2018'

As a Marine Corps Combat Veteran and a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I was invited to attend the bill's signing ceremony at the White House this past Wednesday. At the event, I also had an opportunity to talk with Acting VA Secretary Mr. Peter O'Rourke, and the VA Secretary Nominee Robert Wilkie. In speaking with them, I emphasized the need to immediately clean house by getting rid of all the bureaucratic deadwood in the VA. I will continue to press for the firings of senior VA bureaucrats who have, year-after-year, run failed programs as documented by either the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports and/or VA Office of the Inspector General (VAOIG) reports.

On Thursday, all the Republicans in the House of Representatives met to discuss a path forward on immigration reform, in particular, what to do with the DACA program. DACA was created by President Obama and granted a temporary legal status to young people, who were brought to the United States illegally as children. President Obama created DACA by executive order and it was never passed into law by Congress. The President of the United States cannot make immigration law without the consent of Congress. Although I believe that President Obama exceeded his constitutional authority by creating this program, the solution is not to simply end the program but to resolve and provide a legal status for these young people who grew up here, went to school here and often know of no other country than the United States. This is why, I am one of a handful of Republicans who seeks to force a vote on the House Floor through a legislative tool known as the 'Discharge Petition,' to once and for all resolve this issue. Under the petition, we propose to require a vote on legislation that combines a permanent solution for DACA with a plan to secure our borders. I believe we can strike a balance and craft a bill to accomplish both of these objectives that can pass the House and Senate and be signed into law by the President. The time to secure our borders and find a permanent solution for DACA recipients is now, and I am encouraged that my colleagues are willing to work on this issue.

Also on Thursday, I supported the passage of [H.R.3, the 'Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act'](#). This bill, if enacted, will rescind approximately \$15 billion dollars in funding to a variety of programs whose authority to obligate funding has expired or were allocated for needs that no longer exist. As

our national debt continues to climb, I think it's important to identify unused funds that are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were appropriated. An example of this is the Childhood Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Late last year, Congress reauthorized and fully funded the CHIP program for another 10 years. For a variety technical and legal reasons, we now have approximately \$7 billion in 'stranded' CHIP funds that are no longer usable. No child is impacted by rescinding these funds, but this "clean up" is a small but important step in realizing savings for the American taxpayer. Cleaning up our books is a practice that not only makes accounting sense, but is one that has been used by previous administrations, on both sides of the aisle.

I encourage you to follow me on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), to get the latest news as it becomes available or visit my [website](#) at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Mike Coffman
U.S. Representative



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