

**STATEMENT OF CORRINE BROWN
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BEFORE THE HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

February 4, 2015

Thank you Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Brady for the opportunity to appear before you today to speak in support of the proposed budget for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for the 114th Congress. I am pleased to join with Chairman Jeff Miller to support the proposed budget. As a committee we have done a lot more with a lot less, but I do not see how we can do much more without more resources.

During this Congress the Veterans' Affairs Committee will be expected to continue our active oversight over the Department of Veterans Affairs,

as well as continue our national commitments to our veterans. The Veterans' Affairs Committee will be working to ensure that the bill we enacted last Congress to address the delays veterans were seeing in getting health care does indeed provide greater access in a timely fashion. We know that veterans love the VA system, and we will have a lot of work ahead of us to make sure that the system loves them back. This will require the Committee to keep a close eye on VA oversight of the health care system and how we move forward to make sure that veterans get the care they need. This will also require the Committee to keep our ears open to hear about the experiences of our veterans.

Veterans' Affairs will also have our hands full working with veterans and the VA in how best to

address issues today and in the future, including an ever-increasing focus on the needs of our women veterans and our returning service members. There are problems at the VA, just like there are problems everywhere. I want the Veterans' Affairs Committee to be actively engaged in fixing problems and supporting the VA in its efforts to reform and reorganize. I know Chairman Miller joins me in this. I want the Veterans' Affairs Committee to be working for veterans, and I know you will all join me in supporting this.

I don't have to remind you that the Veterans' Affairs Committee has seen its budget cut. Even with the increase we are asking for the Committee's budget will be lower than it was just a few Congresses ago. Our work is increasing, and we desperately need to

ensure that the Committee has the expertise, the staff, and the resources to assist us in meeting the many challenges before us.

We cannot fail our veterans in the work ahead. They were there when we needed them, and we must be there when they need us. I know this Committee must make some tough decisions, but I believe, along with Chairman Miller, that our proposed budget is a realistic picture of the resources we will need to meet all the challenges we will face.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to speak today; and I yield back the balance of my time.