

# U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

February 2, 2017

Joy Ilem  
National Legislative Director  
Disabled American Veterans  
807 Maine Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ms. Ilem,

On Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in room 334 of the Cannon House Office Building, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will meet in open session to conduct an oversight hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) Choice Program and the future of VA community care programs, authorities, and budget. Congress created the Choice Program in 2014 following a system-wide VA access and accountability scandal. However, recent work by the Government Accountability Office raises serious questions about whether Choice has worked as intended to deliver timely access to care for veteran patients. Meanwhile, demand and costs for VA's community care programs - including Choice - continue to grow significantly, a trend which is expected to continue. As a result, VA is currently forecasting a multi-billion dollar shortfall in community care funds in fiscal year 2018. During this hearing, the Committee will examine these issues and how to move forward with community care consolidation in light of them as well as H.R. 369, a bill to eliminate the three year sunset date for the Choice Program.

You (or your designee) are invited to submit a statement for the record to the Full Committee regarding the above issues. Please confirm your participation by contacting Samantha Gonzalez, Senior Professional Staff Member for the Subcommittee on Health, via email at [Samantha.Gonzalez@mail.house.gov](mailto:Samantha.Gonzalez@mail.house.gov). Please send an electronic copy of your written statement in Microsoft Word format to Ms. Gonzalez at the above email address by no later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 13, 2017. Please also hand deliver 75 copies of your written testimony in accordance with the enclosed formatting requirements to the Subcommittee on Health in room 337 of the Cannon House Office Building by no later than noon on Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

I look forward to your participation in this hearing and thank you for your commitment to our nation's veterans. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Hill, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health, at (202) 225-9154.

Sincerely,



**DAVID P. ROE, M.D.**  
Chairman

## **Submission Requirements for Hearing Statements and Exhibits** **115<sup>th</sup> Congress**

As you prepare to testify before the Committee, please keep in mind the following submission requirements for the printing and electronic dissemination of hearing statements, written comments, and exhibits.

**Electronic Version of Statement:** The Committee requires witnesses to submit testimony electronically so that it may be made available to the public via the Committee website (<http://veterans.house.gov>) in a timely manner. **Please make your statement available to the Committee in Microsoft Word and send it as an attachment electronically to [Samantha.Gonzalez@mail.house.gov](mailto:Samantha.Gonzalez@mail.house.gov).**

**Please be advised your written statement will be available online through the Committee's web page and Committee Repository (<http://docs.house.gov>) immediately following the conclusion of the hearing.** You may notify us of any changes to your written statement up to the morning of the day of the hearing. This is not an official record of your testimony. The official hearing transcript will be made available electronically once submitted to GPO for printing.

**Written Statement:** Each statement presented to the Committee by a witness or any written statement or exhibit submitted for the record of a hearing must be in a form that is capable of being photocopied for printing ("camera ready") and should, therefore conform to the following guidelines. The Committee reserves the right not to include any statement or exhibit that is not submitted in the following form:

- For the printed hearing record, one copy of the statement and any accompanying exhibits for the printed hearing record should be prepared on **letter size paper**.
- The Committee may elect to retain exhibit materials or documents submitted for the record in Committee files instead of reproducing them in the hearing record. Therefore, any relevant material should be referenced and quoted in the written statement or paraphrased. Illegible exhibits cannot be printed.

**Nongovernmental Witnesses:** Witnesses who appear before a committee in a non-governmental capacity are to include with each copy of their written testimony **a curriculum vitae and statement disclosing the amount and source (by agency and program) of any Federal grant or contract (relevant to the subject matter of their testimony) received during the current or previous two fiscal years by the witness or by the organization the witness represents.**

**Disclosure of Foreign Payments to Witnesses.** The House Rules require to the greatest extent practicable, nongovernmental witnesses to disclose payments or contracts to the witness or an organization they represent originating from foreign governments received in the current and preceding two calendar years, to the extent that such information is relevant to the subject matter of, and the witness' representational capacity at, that hearing. While failure to comply fully with this requirement would not give rise to a point of order against the witness testifying, it could result in an objection to including the witness's written testimony in the hearing record in the absence of such disclosure.



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
**Witness Disclosure Statement**  
**Required by House Rule XI, Clause 2(g)**

<b>Your Name:</b>		
<b>1. Are you testifying on behalf of a Federal, State, or Local Government entity?</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>2. Are you testifying on behalf of an entity other than a Government entity?</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>3. Other than yourself, please list what entity or entities you are representing:</b>		
<b>4. Please list any offices or elected positions held or briefly describe your representational capacity with the entities disclosed in question 3.</b>		
<i>(For those testifying on behalf of a Government entity, ignore these questions below)</i>		
<b>5. a) Please list any Federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts), including the amount and source (agency) which <u>you</u> have received and/or been approved for since January 1, 2013:</b>		
<b>b) If you are testifying on behalf of a non-governmental entity, please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) and the amount and source (agency) received by the <u>entities listed under question 3</u> since January 1, 2013, which exceeded 10% of the entities' revenues in the year received:</b>		
<b>6. If you are testifying on behalf of a non-governmental entity, does it have a parent organization or an affiliate who you specifically do not represent? If so, list below:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_