



October 23, 2017

The Honorable Phil Roe  
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans'  
Affairs  
335 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Walz  
Ranking Member, House Committee on  
Veterans' Affairs  
333 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Roe and Ranking Member Walz:

Health IT Now appreciates the Committee's attention to the important issue of ensuring access to high quality care for our nation's veterans. We agree that breaking down barriers to the utilization and nationwide scaling of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) telehealth program is a way to accomplish this.

In order to ensure veterans have access to care when are where they need it, we have been strong supporter of the *Veterans E-Health and Telemedicine Support (VETS) Act* for a number of years. The statutory language included in the *VETS Act*, and reiterated in the recent proposed rule issued by the VA, reflects the good faith efforts of many stakeholders to ensure an important balance is reached – that veterans have access to care and proper channels are maintained to ensure patient safety. That is why we have supported the *VETS Act* and the VA's proposed rule.

We are concerned that the language included in the VA's proposed legislation, the *Veteran Coordinated Access and Rewarding Experiences (CARE) Act*, does not maintain this important balance. We urge the VA to remove Section 301 of their proposed legislation and for the Committee to advance the *VETS Act* instead. There is broad stakeholder support for the *VETS Act*, illustrated by the attached letter signed by over two dozen organizations.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to pass the *VETS Act*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel White".

Joel White  
Executive Director