



UNAC/UHCP

United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals

UNAC/UHCP is affiliated with NUHHCE, AFSCME and the AFL-CIO

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March 18, 2024

The Honorable Jen Kiggans, Chairwoman
The Honorable Frank Mrvan, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kiggans and Ranking Member Mrvan:

On behalf of the 32,000 members of the United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals (UNAC/UHCP), which is part of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees (NUHHCE) and is affiliated with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I request this letter be included in the record for the March 21 hearing on pending legislation.

UNAC/UHCP is proud of our nurses who care for veterans and military personnel at the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center in Loma Linda, CA and the Naval Medical Center in Balboa Park, CA. **We support "VA Correct Compensation Act of 2023" (H.R. 6538) because it will provide registered nurses and others at the VA access to negotiated grievance procedures to correct inaccuracies in their pay.**

Collective bargaining is the process in which working people, through their unions, negotiate contracts with their employers to determine their terms of employment, including pay, benefits, hours, leave, job health and safety policies, ways to balance work and family, and more. Congress has long denied VA nurses the full scope of collective bargaining, including the ability to challenge whether they received the correct compensation as required by law, rule, regulation or binding agreement. This bill is a crucial step toward correcting this longstanding problem. When the VA unfairly denies nurses their shift premium pay or overtime pay, this bill would provide them the right to use the collective bargaining process to grieve and correct their earned pay.

We urge you to pass the VA Correct Compensation Act of 2023.

Sincerely,

Charmaine S. Morales, RN
UNAC/UHCP President