



January 24, 2018

Dear Chairmen of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committees,

My name is Allen McCormack, retired Army Captain. Thank you for your time.

I want to take a moment to introduce myself and share how excited I am to work with you as Concerned Veterans for America-Pennsylvania's new coalitions director.

I'm a Desert Storm veteran and was promoted to the officer ranks after serving as a Staff Sergeant in my twelve years as an enlisted soldier during my 24-year career with the Army and Army Reserve. I was given an honorable discharge in 1996 and now live in Harrisburg.

It's been a while since I've been this excited to fight for freedom, and I can't wait to get started in earnest.

Concerned Veterans for America is a veteran and military families' organization that exists to preserve the freedom and prosperity we and our families fought and sacrificed to defend. Veterans pledged to defend the Constitution and our country, and that commitment does not stop when we take off the uniform. CVA has been at the forefront of the fight to reform the scandal-ridden VA since its inception. We're determined to help the men and women who served our country get timely access to the best possible health care – whether it's at a VA hospital or a community care provider. Veterans expect our elected officials to honor their service by ensuring they can receive the care they need and have earned.

In 2018, I look forward to building on the success CVA had in 2017, a year in which we helped secure wins for several of our priorities.

For example, last summer, President Trump signed the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, landmark legislation that is a great step towards fixing the toxic culture at the VA. This law reduces the time it takes to fire bad employees at the VA, gives Secretary Shulkin the ability to recoup bonuses awarded to employees who are found to have engaged in misconduct, and reduces the pensions of VA employees found guilty of felonies related to their employment at the VA. It ensures that VA employees who are terminated will not remain on the VA payroll while appealing their terminations. The bill will also increase protections for

whistleblowers so they are not retaliated against for speaking up about wrongdoings at the department.

President Trump also created the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection to increase transparency in the VA. This was a crucial step in incentivizing good behavior and discouraging employees from engaging in illegal or unethical activity. The VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act further strengthened this office with its provisions for whistleblower protection.

CVA also played a pivotal role in helping to Secure Judge Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. American veterans dedicated their lives to defending the Constitution, and Supreme Court Judge Gorsuch pledged to secure the freedoms we fought to protect. CVA mobilized our grassroots activists and made nearly 400,000 calls urging people to call their senators in support of Neil Gorsuch. Our group also connected over 20,000 people in America directly with their elected officials. The group's efforts were successful in several states where Democratic Senators flipped and ended up voting in support of Gorsuch.

Pennsylvania has a rich history of fighting for freedom. Our Founders came together at Independence Hall to declare they would not stand for tyranny or oppressive government. Brother fought brother on the battlefields of Gettysburg. Thousands of Pennsylvanians have gone on to serve our country in wars overseas. I look forward to working with our Keystone State activists to build connections and partnerships to advocate for the rights and freedoms our military fought to defend in uniform and to better serve the veteran community in Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your time,

Allen McCormack
Coalitions Director
Concerned Veterans for America – Pennsylvania