



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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General Gordon R. Sullivan
United States Army (Ret.)
President

November 6, 2009

On behalf of the more than 105,000 members of the Association of the United States Army, I write to urge you, before Veterans Day, to bring to the floor of the Senate for approval S. 1963, The Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2009.

Similar legislation already has been approved by the House of Representatives, and S. 1963 contains widely-supported provisions that would make significant enhancements in VA health care services as well as help assure equal access to and quality of medical care for women veterans. Further, the legislation would also provide desperately needed support to family caregivers of severely disabled veterans, particularly those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as expand mental health services, improve traumatic brain injury care, and aid homeless veterans.

No one can ever fully repay our veterans or their families for the hardships, pain, and suffering sustained from their military service or for the personal sacrifices veterans and family caregivers have made and continue to endure. However, at minimum, we must ensure that VA provides high quality health care services for this nation's sick and disabled veterans, including the unique health care needs of women, as well as support the family caregivers on whom they depend.

We are grateful for all that you have done to improve the lives of America's veterans and we stand ready to assist you in moving this vital legislation through the Senate and ultimately onto the President's desk for his approval. Again, thank you for standing up for veterans.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM B. LOPER
Director, Government Affairs