



Commemorating 40 Years Of Disability Advocacy 1973-2013

December 16, 2013

The Honorable Jim Langevin
U.S. House of Representatives
109 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Cook
U.S. House of Representatives
1222 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Langevin and Cook:

We the undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Task Forces on Housing and Veterans and Military Families are writing in support of the Veterans Homebuyer Accessibility Act of 2013 (H.R. 3422), legislation you recently introduced to assist veterans who are purchasing their first homes and to help veterans with disabilities make modifications to their homes to accommodate their disabilities.

CCD is a coalition of national disability rights, advocacy, consumer, and provider organizations. The Veterans and Military Families Task Force follows issues of concern to veterans with disabilities and military family members with disabilities. The Housing Task Force works with Congress and the Administration to increase access to decent, safe and affordable housing for all people with disabilities and to protect the rights guaranteed under the Fair Housing Act.

Access to housing is critical in helping all veterans, including veteran with disabilities, reintegrate successfully into their communities. Despite the availability of federal home loans and other tools, veterans still face substantial obstacles to home ownership (Center for Housing Policy 2012 study). In addition to financial barriers, a veteran with a disability may also face physical barriers within their home that can limit their mobility and use. Your bipartisan legislation would help address both of these important issues by authorizing a veteran first-time homebuyers tax credit equal to 10 percent of the purchase price of the residence and an adaptive housing credit of up to \$8,000 for veterans to address structural and other changes to their home, such as widening of doorways or adding a ramp, to accommodate their disabilities.

Thank you again for your leadership on helping veterans to break into the housing market and to make necessary changes to their homes to make them accessible. Please let our Task Forces know if we can assist you in advancing this measure through the legislative process. If you have any questions, please contact any of the co-chairs of the CCD Housing or Veterans and Military Families Task Forces: Heather Ansley (202-556-2076, Ext. 7702; hansley@vetsfirst.org); Maynard Friesz (202-403-8345; mfriesz@easterseals.com); Susan Prokop (202-416-7707; susanp@pva.org); Andrew Sperling (703-516-7222; Andrew@nami.org) or T.J. Sutcliffe (Sutcliffe@thearc.org, 202-783-2229).

Sincerely,

American Association on Health and Disability
Brain Injury Association of America
Easter Seals
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Paralyzed Veterans of America

Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc.
The Arc of the United States
VetsFirst, a program of United Spinal Association
Vietnam Veterans of America