



Commemorating 40 Years
Of Disability Advocacy
1973-2013

March 28, 2013

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

On behalf of the Veterans and Military Families Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), we commend you for introducing the CHAMPVA Children's Protection Act, S 325, which would allow children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program to continue to receive coverage to age 26. As you are aware, CCD is a coalition of more than 100 national disability rights, advocacy, consumer and provider organizations advocating for issues of importance to the nation's 54 million people with disabilities; and the task force is concerned with matters affecting veterans with disabilities and military family members with disabilities.

CHAMPVA is a vitally important health care program that provides necessary health care services and supplies to spouses and children of veterans who are disabled or who died from a service-connected disability. Unfortunately, when the Affordable Care Act (ACA) passed, children of these veterans were left out of the provisions allowing dependents to stay on their parents' insurance until age 26. Two years ago, Congress addressed a similar omission affecting dependents within the military health program TRICARE. Dependents and survivors of veterans on CHAMPVA should not be left out for disparate treatment.

Thank you for your efforts to correct this oversight. We look forward to working with you to ensure passage of S. 325 as early in the 113th Congress as possible.

Sincerely,

ACCSES
American Association on Health and
Disability
American Counseling Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing
Association
American Therapeutic Recreation
Association
Brain Injury Association
Community Access National Network
Disability Rights, Education and Defense
Fund
Easter Seals

Epilepsy Foundation
Mental Health America
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of State Head Injury
Administrators
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Paralyzed Veterans of America
The Arc of the United States
VetsFirst, a program of United Spinal
Association
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Cc: The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chairman, SVAC

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