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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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May 10, 2013

Senator Boxer
Senator Feinstein
Congresswoman Sanchez
President Obama

Dear Senators Boxer & Feinstein and Congresswoman Sanchez and President Obama:

As your constituent, I write today to urge you to support passage of S. 851, the Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act of 2013, introduced by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders on April 25, 2013. This legislation is important to me and millions of veterans and their families.

This legislation would bring parity in VA's provision of caregiver support services. Currently, only caregivers of veterans who were severely injured in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, are eligible for comprehensive benefits and services that allow severely injured veterans to be maintained at home, rather than in government institutions.

A survey by the National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) of caregivers who are caring for veterans from combat eras dating from World War II to the more recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan showed that the overwhelming majority of veteran caregivers are women. Twice as many veterans' caregivers said they have been caregiving for 10 or more years compared to national statistics, three times as many caregivers reported spending 40 hours a week or more providing care compared to the national total, and six out of ten caregivers of veterans surveyed are at least 50 years of age including one in eight who is 65 or older.

Veterans severely injured before September 11, 2001, are living better lives because of their caregivers, who are equally worthy and need support services. The original bill providing caregiver support services (Public Law 111-163) passed with the Senate's overwhelming support. I urge you to work with your colleagues to end this unfair and arbitrary limitation and bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

Thank you for considering my views. Please provide me your response to this request.

I'd much prefer a direct response, and please don't waste time telling me of your accomplishments, only what you intend on doing tomorrow and in the future.

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder & CEO
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