IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN
VETERANS OF AMERICA

May 4, 2015

The Honorable Dean Heller
U.S. Senate
361 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey
U.S. Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heller and Senator Casey,

On behalf of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) and its 400,000 members, we are pleased to offer our support for the 21st Century Veterans Benefits Act.

While the VA deserves some credit in working to reduce the disability claims backlog by 36.5% from a high of 611,000 in March 2013, more needs to be done to continue to make sure veterans are receiving consistent, timely, and accurate claims decisions.

This legislation would modernize and improve the disability claims process for veterans. Too often, a veteran has to wait an extended period of time before a final decision is rendered in regard to his or her application for disability-compensation. The VA must improve internal processes and leverage the proven accuracy and production benchmarks of high performing regional offices in order to assist regional offices that under perform. The interagency data sharing standards with regard to the timely collection of veteran health records, is one of many legislative provisions in this bill that will ensure the VA shortens its timeline on delivering results for veterans.

All veterans deserve a timely and accurate disability-claims process. Therefore, we are proud to offer our support to this meaningful legislation. If we can be of additional help, please contact Christopher Neiweem, IAVA's Legislative Associate, at (202) 346-3268, or by e-mail at chrisn@iava.org.

Sincerely,

Matthew Miller
Chief Policy Officer
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)