



National Service & Legislative Headquarters
807 Maine Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024-2410
Phone (202) 554-3501
Fax (202) 554-3581
www.dav.org

March 6, 2018

The Honorable Joe Donnelly
United States Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Donnelly:


On behalf of DAV and our more than one million members, all of whom were injured or made ill during wartime service, I write to offer our support of Section 302, Protecting Veterans Credit, found in S. 2155, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act. This section would rectify the problematic reporting of medical debt of a veteran due to inappropriate or delayed payments by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

DAV strongly supports Section 302, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 130, adopted at our most recent national convention. Our resolution calls on Congress to support legislation to improve timely reimbursements by VA for purchased care and protect veterans from debt collection and adverse credit reporting.

In innumerable cases, service-disabled veterans have been billed directly for the full cost of community care despite VA's obligation and requirement to pay in a timely fashion. Many veterans do not have the means to rectify these debts assigned by private providers when VA payment is delinquent, thus veterans become the targets of collection actions and negative reports to credit reporting agencies. These actions are adversely affecting these veterans' creditworthiness when in fact, there is no justification to support collection actions or credit reporting.

Section 302, Protecting Veterans Credit, found in S. 2155, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act, will protect veterans from inappropriate collections and credit reporting activities. Senator Donnelly, thank you for introducing this important provision into S. 2155 and for your continued efforts on this issue.

Respectfully,


GARRY J. AUGUSTINE
Executive Director
Washington Headquarters

GJA:lmb