

CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS HEALTH ALLIANCE, INC

980 WHEELER WAY P.O. BOX 1204, Langhorne, Pennsylvania 19047

January 28, 2015

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy
U. S. House of Representatives
1208 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, MD
U. S. House of Representatives
1319 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Walz
U. S. House of Representatives
1034 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Duffy, Ruiz, and Walz,

On behalf of the Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Alliance (COVVHA), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 353, which would increase Veterans' access to hearing healthcare services by enhancing the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) ability to use hearing aid specialists. COVVHA believes that passage of this bill will help those Veterans in need of hearing aids, who are unable to access them due to physical limitations, long distances to VA facilities, and long wait times for appointments.

Founded in 2012, COVVHA is an organization comprised of Agent Orange Advocates committed to serving as a voice for the children of Vietnam Veterans including second and third generation victims of Agent Orange and Dioxin Exposures worldwide.

Many of our Vietnam Veterans suffer from hearing loss in addition to other physical disabilities and neurological conditions, including those who were exposed to Agent Orange. These Veterans may have numerous challenges in their daily lives related to mobility, illness, and psychological conditions. The ability to hear, which if unaided can lead to depression, anxiety, and isolation, should not be one of them. One way we can help them is by making hearing aids more accessible and convenient, through passage of H.R. 353.

Thank you for introducing this bill and working to address the issue of Veterans' hearing loss. I encourage you to visit our website at <http://covvha.net> to learn more about our organization and the impact of Agent Orange exposure on our Veterans and their children and grandchildren. With questions, you may contact me at covvha@gmail.com or 215-702-0898.

Sincerely,

Kelly L. Derricks

Kelly L. Derricks

Founder and President

Daughter of Vietnam Veteran Harry C. Mackel, Jr., U.S. Air Force (deceased)



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

www.covvha.net