

(MOAA), I'm writing to thank you for sponsoring the "Veteran Partners Efforts to Enhance Reintegration (PEER) Act," a bill that would establish a two-year pilot program that requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at 25 medical center locations.

MOAA has long supported peer support programs as a means to enhance delivery of health care services. By extending VA's existing mental health peer support model into the primary care setting helps to further reduce barriers in accessing mental health services while also supporting the Department's current efforts at integrating mental-physical health care concurrently to increase system capacity.

All veterans deserve access to mental health care when they need it and wherever they may live. As such, we are particularly grateful for special consideration in this legislation for female veterans and those living in rural or underserved areas.

I greatly appreciate your leadership and look forward to the passage of this timely legislation.

Sincerely,

NORBERT RYAN, Jr.,  
President.

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION,  
October 23, 2015.

Hon. RICHARD BLUMENTHAL,  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER BLUMENTHAL: On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals who champion the health of all people and communities, I write in support of the Veteran Partners' Efforts to Enhance Reintegration Act, which would require the inclusion of peer support specialists in Patient Aligned Care Teams within medical centers at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Rates of mental illness are disproportionately high among U.S. veterans, particularly posttraumatic stress disorder, substance abuse disorders, depression, anxiety and military sexual trauma. Nearly 50 percent of combat veterans from Iraq report that they have suffered from PTSD, and close to 40 percent of these same veterans report problem alcohol use. In 2010, about 22 veterans died each day as a result of suicide. Military culture promotes inner strength, self-reliance and the ability to shake off injury, which may contribute to stigma surrounding mental health issues. Stigma may create a reluctance to seek help and a fear of negative social consequences, and is the most often cited reason for why people do not seek counseling or other mental health services.

Through a peer support model of care, Peer Specialists—veterans who have recovered or are recovering from a mental health condition—provide veterans with assistance in accessing mental health services, navigating the health care system and skills needed for a successful recovery. Expanding the peer support model to the primary care setting may offer a key entry point for those reluctant to access mental health services. The bill would also direct the VA to take into consideration the needs of female veterans and locations that are underserved.

Thank you for your commitment to the health and wellbeing of U.S. veterans and to improving access to mental health services within the VA.

Sincerely,

GEORGES C. BENJAMIN, MD,  
Executive Director.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2749. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) proposed an amendment to

amendment SA 2716 proposed by Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill S. 754, to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 2749.** Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2716 proposed by Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) to the bill S. 754, to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 11, line 3, strike "period" and insert "periodic".

On page 11, line 10, strike "532" and insert "632".

On page 20, line 21, strike "measures" and insert "measure".

On page 56, line 8, strike "and" and all that follows through "(7)" on line 9 and insert the following:

(7) the term "national security system" has the meaning given the term in section 11103 of title 40, United States Code; and

(8) On page 57, line 8, strike "and".

On page 57, line 11, strike the period at the end and insert ";" and".

On page 57, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

"(4) the term 'national security system' has the meaning given the term in section 11103 of title 40, United States Code.

On page 64, lines 14 and 15, strike "Notwithstanding section 202, in this subsection" and insert "In this subsection only".

On page 69, line 13, strike "all taken" and insert "taken all".

On page 76, line 22, insert "and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget" after "Intelligence".

On page 77, lines 12 and 13, strike ", as defined in section 11103 of title 40, United States Code".

On page 77, line 14, insert "and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget" after "Intelligence".

On page 78, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to designate an information system as a national security system.

On page 78, line 18, strike "owned" and insert "used".

Beginning on page 80, line 25, strike "use" and all that follows through "other" on page 81, line 6, and insert "intrusion detection and prevention capabilities under section 230(b)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 for the purpose of ensuring the security of".

On page 84, line 25, strike "Act" and insert "Act of 2015".

On page 85, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

(D) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

On page 86, line 26, insert "the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology" and after "coordination with".

On page 88, line 8, strike "non-civilian" and insert "noncivilian".

On page 89, line 23, insert ", the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology," after "Director".

On page 91, line 11, strike "203 and 204" and insert "303 and 304".

On page 91, line 21, insert ", in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology," after "Security".

On page 92, line 9, insert ", in consultation with the Director of the National Institute

of Standards and Technology," after "Secretary".

On page 96, line 19, strike "likely," and insert "likely".

On page 96, line 22, strike "present" and insert "present".

Beginning on page 103, strike line 10 and all that follows through page 105, line 24, and insert the following:

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall convene health care industry stakeholders, cybersecurity experts, and any Federal agencies or entities the Secretary determines appropriate to establish a task force to—

(A) analyze how industries, other than the health care industry, have implemented strategies and safeguards for addressing cybersecurity threats within their respective industries;

(B) analyze challenges and barriers private entities (notwithstanding section 102(15)(B), excluding any State, tribal, or local government) in the health care industry face securing themselves against cyber attacks;

(C) review challenges that covered entities and business associates face in securing networked medical devices and other software or systems that connect to an electronic health record;

(D) provide the Secretary with information to disseminate to health care industry stakeholders for purposes of improving their preparedness for, and response to, cybersecurity threats affecting the health care industry;

(E) establish a plan for creating a single system for the Federal Government to share information on actionable intelligence regarding cybersecurity threats to the health care industry in near real time, requiring no fee to the recipients of such information, including which Federal agency or other entity may be best suited to be the central conduit to facilitate the sharing of such information; and

(F) report to Congress on the findings and recommendations of the task force regarding carrying out subparagraphs (A) through (E).

(2) **TERMINATION.**—The task force established under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) **DISSEMINATION.**—Not later than 60 days after the termination of the task force established under this subsection, the Secretary shall disseminate the information described in paragraph (1)(D) to health care industry stakeholders in accordance with such paragraph.

(4) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the antitrust exemption under section 104(e) or the protection from liability under section 106.

(e) **CYBERSECURITY FRAMEWORK.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish, through a collaborative process with the Secretary of Homeland Security, health care industry stakeholders, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and any Federal agency or entity the Secretary determines appropriate, a single, voluntary, national health-specific cybersecurity framework that—

(A) establishes a common set of voluntary, consensus-based, and industry-led standards, security practices, guidelines, methodologies, procedures, and processes that serve as

a resource for cost-effectively reducing cybersecurity risks for a range of health care organizations;

(B) supports voluntary adoption and implementation efforts to improve safeguards to address cybersecurity threats;

(C) is consistent with the security and privacy regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1320d-2 note) and with the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (title XIII of division A, and title IV of division B, of Public Law 111-5), and the amendments made by such Act; and

(D) is updated on a regular basis and applicable to the range of health care organizations described in subparagraph (A).

(2) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted as granting the Secretary authority to—

(A) provide for audits to ensure that health care organizations are in compliance with the voluntary framework under this subsection; or

(B) mandate, direct, or condition the award of any Federal grant, contract, or purchase on compliance with such voluntary framework.

(3) NO LIABILITY FOR NONPARTICIPATION.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to subject a health care organization to liability for choosing not to engage in the voluntary activities authorized under this subsection.

On page 107, line 10, strike “shall each” and insert “shall”.

On page 107, lines 11 and 12, strike “each Comptroller General of the United States and”.

On page 110, strikes lines 6 through 16.

On page 111, lines 8 and 9, strike “under subsection (b)” and insert “pursuant to section 9(a) of Executive Order 13636 of February 12, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 11742), relating to identification of critical infrastructure where a cybersecurity incident could reasonably result in catastrophic regional or national effects on public health or safety, economic security, or national security”.

On page 111, strike lines 22 through 24 and insert the following:

Resources of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(G) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

On page 112, line 3, add a period at the end.

On page 112, strike lines 4 through 10.

On page 113, line 14, strike “intrusion”.

Beginning on page 114, strike line 7 and all that follows through page 115, line 9.

On page 115, after line 9, add the following:

**SEC. 408. STOPPING THE FRAUDULENT SALE OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.**

Section 1029(h) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “title if—” and

all that follows through “therefrom.” and inserting “title if the offense involves an access device issued, owned, managed, or controlled by a financial institution, account issuer, credit card system member, or other entity organized under the laws of the United States, or any State, the District of Columbia, or other Territory of the United States.”

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 27, 2015, 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 27, 2015, at 4 p.m., in room S-207 of the Capitol.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 27, 2015, at 9 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 27, 2015, at 9 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “The Internal Revenue Service’s Response to Committee Recommendations Contained in its August 5, 2015 Report.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 27, 2015, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 27, 2015, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jeremy Kuester, a fellow in my office, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:23 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 28, 2015, at 10 a.m.