



Vietnam Veterans of America

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A Not-For-Profit Veterans Service Organization Chartered by the United States Congress

March 8, 2016

The Honorable Senator Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Grassley and Durbin:

On behalf of Vietnam Veterans of America, I am writing in regards to S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015. This notification to the VA Secretary would include the identity of the prisoner, the location of the facility in which the prisoner is being held, the offense leading to incarceration, and the length of the sentence.

The bill would also require the Bureau of Prisons to provide the VA with reasonable access to any prisoner with prior service in the U.S. military.

Because of its long history with veterans and criminal justice issues, VVA has always believed that VA access to incarcerated veterans is especially needed by those transitioning from incarceration to life beyond prison walls, as it would help to align VA healthcare and benefits, as well as employment, housing, and other supportive services – all of which could facilitate a veteran's successful reintegration upon release from incarceration with dignity.

Although we have concerns about exactly how the VA can best accomplish the intent of the proposed legislation, we believe it can be done right with input from veteran service organizations such as Vietnam Veterans of America. Thank you for your attention to the unique needs of our incarcerated veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Rowan".

John Rowan
President/CEO