



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

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February 2, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

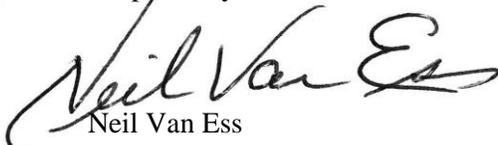
On behalf of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), whose membership is comprised entirely of combat wounded veterans, I am pleased to offer our support for the *Veterans Second Amendment Rights Restoration Act*.

Under current policy, when a veteran is assigned a fiduciary by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), their name is automatically listed on the National Criminal Instant Background Check System (NICS), prohibiting them from legally purchasing firearms. MOPH finds it absolutely unacceptable that veterans are being denied their rights under the Second Amendment of the Constitution, simply because they may benefit from assistance in managing their finances. We note that 98 percent of the names submitted to NICS by federal agencies for the mental defective category are from VA, meaning that veterans are unfairly held to a different standard than the rest of the U.S. population.

The *Veterans Second Amendment Rights Restoration Act* would finally correct this unjust practice, by requiring that there be a finding that a veteran is a danger to self or others, either by an administrative panel or through a judicial process, before their name is sent to NICS. The choice of which forum to use would be entirely up to the veteran. In either case, the burden of proof would be shifted to VA to prove that the veteran is a danger to self or others, as it should be.

MOPH thanks you for your leadership on this issue, and your unwavering commitment to protecting the Constitutional Rights of those who have served our nation in uniform. We look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this important legislation.

Respectfully,



Neil Van Ess
National Commander