

June 29, 2012

Senator Dean Heller
361-A Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard Burr
217 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Heller and Burr:

I write to express the support of the National Alliance to End Homelessness for the Women's Homeless Veterans Act (S. 3308). We understand that this bill is a part of the ongoing restructuring of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program to provide additional flexibility to ensure that the program remains a key part of VA's work to end homelessness for veterans and prevent its recurrence. The GPD program funds grants to nonprofit and community-based organizations to provide temporary housing and supportive housing for veterans experiencing homelessness.

The Women's Homeless Veterans Act is an important bill that will expand eligibility for GPD services to include veterans' families and result in broader inclusion of veterans who are particularly vulnerable to homelessness.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness and others concerned with homelessness have worked hard to improve access to services for women veterans, who are experiencing homelessness at historically high rates. By also including dependents in this Act, you will expand access to vulnerable minors who were previously not served by the GPD program. The renewed focus on female veterans and dependents of veterans highlighted by this legislation represents a bold step forward in the ongoing initiative to end veteran homelessness by 2015.

We believe the Women's Homeless Veterans Act is a significant first step toward improving the GPD program model and that it acknowledges the work of VA in re-structuring this program to address the changing needs and demographics of veterans who are experiencing homelessness. Thank you so much for your continued leadership to ensure that no one who served our country is homeless.

Sincerely,



Nan Roman
President & CEO
National Alliance to End Homelessness