

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Julia Brownley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Brownley and Senator Brown:

We, the undersigned military and veteran service organizations, and stakeholder groups representing a collective membership of millions, are writing to once again thank you for your continued support and commitment to ensuring passage of the *CHAMPVA Children's Protection Act* to close the age parity gap for children whose veteran parents are disabled or who have died from a service-connected disability.

As you well know, employer-sponsored health care plans, as required by law in the 2010 *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)*, must cover adult beneficiaries' children up to age 26 at no additional cost. While the Department of Defense was able to establish the TRICARE Young Adult Program a year later, adult children of veterans were not offered a similar option via the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) to meet the intent of the ACA. Eligibility for these young adults now ends at age 18, unless they enroll full-time as a student, which would extend coverage to age 23. Coverage ends if they lose their full-time student status or get married.

Crossing another grim milestone in our fight to address the COVID-19 pandemic a year into the crisis, brings forth even greater urgency to not only close this age coverage gap but to provide much-needed health care coverage for this important and vulnerable segment of the population. The pandemic is hitting children and young adults across our country especially hard. Many young adults are graduating from high school and planning to attend college only to find they must put their education goals on hold because of health and economic uncertainties. Others are seeking employment in a challenging job market or have experienced unexpected job loss. The longer this national crisis lasts, millions more will lose life-saving coverage for medical or COVID-related health conditions, including the children of veterans no longer eligible for CHAMPVA.

Given the enormity and magnitude of the health care and economic crises before us, we are immensely grateful for your sponsorship of the *CHAMPVA Children's Protection Act*. Our organizations are committed to enacting this legislation so we can eliminate this unacceptable inequity and extend health care coverage to CHAMPVA-eligible young adult children.

Respectfully,
[The Undersigned Organizations]

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
American Music Therapy Association (AMTA)
American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
American Psychological Association (APA)
America's Warrior Partnership (AWP)
Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)

Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)
Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)
Blue Star Families (BSF)
Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA)
Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association, United States Coast Guard (CWOA)
Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS Inc. (COA)
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Easterseals
Elizabeth Dole Foundation
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. (GSW)
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)
Marine Corps League (MCL)
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Military Chaplains Association (MCA)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America (NCOA)
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)
Reserve Officers Association (ROA)
Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)
The Independence Fund
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)
United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD)
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
VetsFirst
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)