



# MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

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March 15, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Flake  
413 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Flake:

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 Court Improvement Act of 2017.

MOPH strongly believes in the rule of law, and that those who commit crimes should be held accountable. Still, we recognize that veterans who commit minor offenses due to addiction or mental health issues should be given every opportunity for rehabilitation before incarceration.

For this reason, we strongly support the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initiative to employ Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Specialists to help connect justice-involved veterans with the treatment and resources they need. The Veterans Court Improvement Act would provide funding to hire additional VJO Specialists where they are needed, ensuring that VA is able to provide as many justice-involved veterans as possible with these critical services.

MOPH thanks you for your leadership on this issue and your continued commitment to veterans and their families. We look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Hershel Gober  
National Commander