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March 21, 2017

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

Dear Senator Flake,

On behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), the largest and oldest prosecutor organization representing 2,500 elected and appointed District Attorneys across the United States as well as 40,000 Assistant District Attorneys, I write in support of the Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure that our nation's veterans that have become involved with the criminal justice system have access to services and resources they need to become productive members of society.

Specifically, the legislation would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire additional Veterans Justice Outreach program specialists to work with veterans involved in the criminal justice system through veterans treatment courts. Veterans treatment courts have been set up across the country to help veterans involved in the criminal justice system get the help that they need and deserve as well as access the benefits they should receive due to their military service. It is well documented that many in our veteran community suffer from mental illness, including PTSD, and other substance use disorders, and veterans treatment courts provide a necessary venue to address those issues.

Congress has highlighted the deficiencies in the resources and care we provide our military veterans through the VA, and this legislation can serve as a small step to help those that are part of the criminal justice system. We look forward to working with you and your staff on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Ramos
President