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

June 14, 2023

Dear Senator Grassley,

On behalf of the undersigned, which represent the interests and concerns of well over one million members of the Uniformed Services, their family members, retirees, and survivors, we thank you for remaining undaunted in the pursuit of justice and accountability for the Department of Veterans Affairs. In Congressional testimony and letters to various Agencies, the Veterans Education Project and other members of the Veteran Service Organization community have echoed the concerns outlined in your letter to Secretary McDonough regarding the possible retaliatory actions taken against VA whistleblowers by the department. We also support your calls for full transparency and cooperation with the OIG investigations. We stand with you in demanding answers from the department, so that it can be an organization that Veterans can trust through-and-through.

We call on VA leadership to respond quickly to your inquiries, so that the hold will be resolved quickly and the work of the Deputy Secretary can continue without interruption. During the time following the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant regulatory changes recently made to GI Bill benefits, institutions of higher education and veteran students require sustained and consistent support and guidance from Veterans Administration. Due to the current lack of leadership, we are concerned that Veterans and their families may experience delays in or entirely lose access to these critical benefits. Such delays in payments or sudden cancelation of benefit eligibility is not unprecedented in a weak VA.

We thank you for your commitment to our nation's veterans and your continued oversight of the institutions meant to serve and care for them and their families. We look forward to working with your office to gain the accountability our Veterans deserve.

Sincerely,

AFG Free
CEEC Church
Flanders Fields
Freedom Bird Foundation
Heart of an Ace
Joint Operation North Star
NMRG Rescue Project
Operation 620

Operation Recovery

Ops Sacred Promise

Project Exodus Relief

React DC

Rule 20

Save Our Allies

Special Operations Association of America

Task Force Pineapple

The Independence Fund

The Lifeline Foundation

The Moral Compass Federation

The Veteran's Education Project

<u>Ukraine NGO Coordination Network</u>