



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC.
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May 30, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

In January of this year I concluded my letter to you with "...we pledge our support for your... military strengthening, veterans concerns and returning the USA to its leading position among global nations..." However, it has been brought to my attention via the **AMVETS National Headquarters, May 24, 2017**, there exists a proposal, which is summarized as follows: "While AMVETS (American Veterans) is thankful for President Trump's proposed 6 percent increase in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' fiscal year 2018 discretionary budget, AMVETS leadership is deeply concerned by the proposed cuts to earned benefits for perhaps the most vulnerable segment of the veterans population. The Trump administration's budget proposal contains a provision to cut Individual Unemployability (IU) benefits for seriously service connected disabled veterans aged 65 and older. This would steal a large percentage of a wounded, injured or ill veteran's compensation."

We tend to agree with the AMVETS leadership in complimenting your Administration as regards to the proposed increase as well as the opposition to the proposed cut to the IU. While Secretary Dr. David Shulkin seems to agree with these cuts in favor of an expanded choice program that would allow veterans to opt for private care and the offset from veterans' benefits to pay for more choice, senior veterans who have dealt with the VA in the past and have been granted their disability ratings have already suffered the brunt of financial cuts. To have them reduce their benefits more would be a "slap in the face" to those who not only experienced medical loss while in the service to the USA but also another financial setback. Remember the COLA has not been added to their benefits, Social Security COLA has not been granted, yet Medicare costs have risen. Doing the Mathematics yields the following results costs have gone up while entitlements have gone down!

May I suggest the venue for retrieving the costs for veterans comes through the sacrifices members of Congress should make for their constituents, and that is, refrain from voting increases to their salaries and benefits; place their retirement income on the same basis most, if not all disabled veterans and military retirees must endure, (i.e., 2% of their Final Average Income for each year served) with no special benefits for their children (i.e., college education); payment into the same health care system as every red-blooded American **MUST** pay, and the return of the term "Welfare" in lieu of the earned "Entitlement" that supports generations of illegal, legal and non-willing-to work people in our country.

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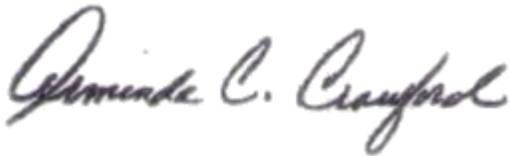
Those currently receiving assistance because of extenuating circumstances should continue to receive aid. As Catholic War Veterans we are constantly involved with community service that includes food, clothing and shelter. Yet, Mr. President, there are no organizations that are financially stable to provide financial resources to disabled veterans if this proposal is not amended.

As the National Commander of the Catholic War Veterans, I implore you to re-evaluate this proposal in favor of all veterans especially disabled veterans.

We continue to look forward to working with you to advance the cause of life, family, and freedom, which would truly make AMERICA GREAT AGAIN.

May God bless you, your family and the USA!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arminda C. Crawford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Arminda C. Crawford
National Commander