



March 16, 2018

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Dear Chairman Grassley:

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is pleased to offer our strong support for Section 207(c) of the *Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2017* (S. 1917) entitled "Facilitating Reentry Assistance to Veterans."

IAVA has long been a strong supporter and advocate of local veterans' courts—effective and innovative courts that offer alternatives to traditional criminal sentences for veterans with legal trouble characteristic of a mental health injury. These courts provide the veteran with critical rehabilitation and the mental health support necessary to avoid incarceration and recidivism.

Many incarcerated veterans, however, did not have the opportunity to go through a veterans' court and now are unable to receive treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs for combat-related physical and mental health injuries. Section 207(c) of S. 1917 would provide information to the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Labor about incarcerated veterans so that they may participate in programs for justice-involved veterans, such as the healthcare for re-entry veterans program, and are not unfairly penalized for receiving benefits while in the justice system.

IAVA believes veterans and service members deserve the highest-quality care and support this country can offer, regardless of their current life status. IAVA is proud to offer our support, and we thank you for moving forward on this meaningful legislation.

If IAVA can be of further help, please contact me at: thomas@iava.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas H. Porter", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tom Porter
Legislative Director
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)