

THANK YOU LETTERS

Members of Congress receive a lot of negative complaint letters after nearly every action they take on legislative matters. If your legislator voted as you wanted him or her to vote, sponsored a bill you requested they sponsor or opposed a matter detrimental to disabled veterans and their families, take a few minutes to write and send a short thank-you note (especially if you previously wrote a letter expressing your opinion):



Dear Senator/Representative Jane Doe:

As a DAV (Disabled American Veterans) member living in your district/state, I want to thank you for [introducing/sponsoring/voting for] [the title and/or bill number] to improve the lives of our nation's wounded, ill and injured veterans.

For nearly 100 years, DAV has been dedicated to one single purpose, empowering our nation's ill and injured veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. [Bill number and/or title of bill] supports our mission and improves the lives of disabled veterans around the country.

Thank you again for your efforts on behalf of veterans who've sacrificed for our nation, their families and survivors.

Sincerely,

SAMPLE LETTER TO HOUSE AND SENATE



The Honorable (Representative/Senator)
1234 Street Address
Local Office City, State ZIP

Dear Representative/Senator (Last Name):

As your constituent, I write to request your support of S. 2251, the Seniors and Veterans Emergency Benefits Act.

The Social Security Administration announced that due to low inflation this year, no COLA would be made in 2016. That decision would also apply to veterans receiving financial benefits from the VA, including disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation, pension and other benefits.

Senator Warren and 18 of her colleagues jointly introduced a bill, S. 2251, the SAVE Benefits Act. The bill would provide veterans a one-time payment of about \$580 in 2016. This one-time payment would soften the financial blow associated with the lack of a COLA in 2016 for veterans who are disabled due to their military service-related wounds, injuries

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and illnesses, and for certain of their dependents and survivors.

As a supporter of DAV (Disabled American Veterans), I strongly endorse this bill and urge you to co-sponsor and work for its passage at the earliest date. Disabled veterans, and especially those who cannot work but consume a greater share of expensive health care resources than other individuals, should not be penalized in trying to maintain their standard of living. Without a COLA in 2016 their limited incomes will not be sufficient to prevent erosion of their personal finances.

Please advise me of the actions you intend to take with respect to this important proposal.

Sincerely,

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