



February 24, 2016

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

Dear Senator Grassley,

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is pleased to offer our strong support for Section 208(c) of the *Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015* (S. 2123) 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 VA for combat-related physical and mental health injuries. Section 208(c) of S. 2123 would likely reduce recidivism rates within the veteran population by granting the VA access to these incarcerated veterans and providing a mechanism to allow those who are suffering to get the help they not only need, but have earned, and give them a chance at rehabilitation.

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 Allison Jaslow, IAVA's Director of Political and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 544-7692, or by e-mail at [AllisonJ@iava.org](mailto:AllisonJ@iava.org).

Sincerely,

Matthew Miller  
Chief Policy Officer  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)