



Lt Gen Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret)
President and CEO

March 22, 2015

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
224 Senate Dirksen Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
152 Senate Dirksen Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Grassley and Leahy:

The Military Officers Association of America, the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers representing more than 390,000 officers and their spouses, writes to express our support for provisions in your bi-partisan bill, S. 2123, The Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015, to assist incarcerated veterans scheduled for release to have access to Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) services.

In Section 208(c) of your bill — 'Facilitating Re-entry Assistance to Veterans' — provides DVA employees or representatives reasonable access to prisoners identified by the Bureau of Prisons (BoP). Reducing recidivism among veterans scheduled for release from the BoP is at the heart of your legislation.

Giving the DVA access to veterans scheduled for release from a BoP facility will increase the prospects for their successful re-adjustment to the civilian community. The VA can provide counseling, VA health system enrollment and access to benefits earned in service such as education and vocational rehabilitation and employment.

Because employment is a critical objective after release from prison, we respectfully recommend the bill be amended on the floor of the Senate to include authorization for representatives of the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) to have access to veterans. We also suggest the Committee work with the Veterans Committee to ensure Title 38 is amended as may be necessary to ensure veterans get the services they both need and require for reintegration.

MOAA urges final passage of S. 2123, The Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana T. Atkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" being the most prominent.