March 12, 2019

The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

AMVETS is pleased to support the Commander John Scott Hannon VA Mental Health Improvement Act, which addresses all three of AMVETS legislative priorities. This Congress, our organization is dedicated to finding legislative solutions for mental health and suicide prevention, women veterans, and veteran health care access. The Commander John Scott Hannon VA Mental Health Improvement Act is a positive start to Congress’ and VA’s duty to address these challenges.

The Commander John Scott Hannon VA Mental Health Improvement Act seeks to improve VA mental health care by improving care during transition, providing suicide prevention resources, launching programs and studies on mental health, increasing oversight of VA’s mental health care and suicide prevention efforts, and enhancing VA’s medical workforce and telehealth services.

AMVETS believes Section 203: Post-traumatic Growth (PTG) Partnerships is the most advantageous legislation Congress can pursue right now. PTG is defined as a positive change after experiencing trauma, including an increased appreciation for life, improved relationships with others, a realization of new possibilities in life, increased personal strength, and a spiritual change. Additionally, we strongly recommend a legislative solution that ensures these new programs that utilize PTG are used at VA.

AMVETS is pleased that this bill recognizes the need for gender-specific treatment, includes funding for telehealth services that will reach rural veterans, expands health care options to other than honorable veterans, and requires VA to develop and track their goals and objectives regarding suicide prevention.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

JOSEPH R. CHENELLY
Executive Director