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WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT®

May 8, 2018

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren,

On behalf of Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), and in the spirit of our mission to honor and empower wounded warriors, I write today to thank you for introducing legislation to give the Department of Defense (DoD) authority to launch a pilot for intensive outpatient programs to treat service members suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) resulting from military sexual trauma. At WWP, we have seen firsthand the life-changing potential that programs like this can provide for wounded warriors.

In 2016, WWP helped launch the Warrior Care Network (WCN) with a goal of healing the invisible wounds of war by increasing access to some of the highest quality care for wounded warriors and their families. At its core, the WCN is delivering care to veterans by the work of WWP and four of the nation's leading academic medical centers (Massachusetts General's (MGH) Home Base Program, University of California, Los Angeles's (UCLA) Operation Mend, Rush University Medical Center's Road Home Program, and Emory Healthcare's Veterans Program). In addition to driving clinically significant decreases in PTSD symptoms, WCN's intensive outpatient programs also foster a substantially higher rate of completion (95 percent) by patients when compared to more typical mental health services (35 to 50 percent dropout rate).

In light of recent metrics reported by DoD, we hope your legislation can help programs similar to WCN reach more service members. In its FY 2017 *Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*, DoD reported that the military services received 6,769 reports of sexual assault involving service members – a 9.7 percent increase overall from FY 2016. As DoD responds with heightened efforts to prevent future sexual assaults, legislation like yours matches a corresponding need to treat those who are already victims.

For these reasons, WWP is proud to support this initiative and applauds your leadership in helping expand the resources available to service members who have suffered military sexual trauma.

Sincerely,

René C. Bardorf
Senior Vice President of Government and Community Relations