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May 6, 2013

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
United States House of Representatives
2235 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cummings:

I am writing on behalf of the DAV, a congressionally chartered national veterans service organization with 1.2 million members, all of whom were wounded or injured as a result of active duty in the United States Armed Forces. The DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

As you requested, we have reviewed your draft bill, which amends the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend the current period to twelve months to protect veterans who are medically discharged and retired under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, (except veterans described in section 1207 of such title), and certain surviving spouses service members who died while in military service, against mortgage sale or foreclosure.

While we do not have a resolution on this specific matter from our members, we support the general purpose of the proposed bill, as it would extend the period of protection against mortgage sale or foreclosure. We do, however, request consideration of expanding section 1(g)(1)(c) to include all veterans discharged with a service connected disability, regardless of disability rating percentage.

Thank you for introducing this legislation and for your continued support of America's wounded and injured veterans. I look forward to working with you and your staff to continue the DAV mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives.

Sincerely,

BARRY A. JESINOSKI
Executive Director
Washington Headquarters

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