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My name is Mike Sullivan. I am a proud member of the Disabled American Veterans since 2003. It was around that time, when reading the DAV magazine, I came upon an article that stated it was high time the Veterans' Health Care be funded on a permanent basis, not annually. Although this idea stayed with me, I didn't really know how to help it become a reality.

In 2005, I began lobbying in Oregon for a union known as the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers (AWPPW). Every session (every other year in Oregon) thus far, I have been successful in finding a willing sponsor to introduce a memorial with the DAV language suggesting we need to have permanent funding for Veterans' Health Care. As a matter of fact, in the last three sessions, a House Joint Memorial has been passed through both chambers and signed by the Secretary of State of Oregon to urge the U.S. Congress to do just that. Currently, HJM-18 (Please see attached) has gone through the Oregon House 59-0 with 1 excused. I just made testimony this week before the Senate Veterans Committee. It was then that Senator and Veteran Laurie Monnes-Anderson, who serves on this committee, asked if I have heard from the federal government on this important issue. My answer was no, I have not heard anything at all.

This is why I am writing you, Denvel. Do you know of any movement on permanent funding of Veterans' Health Care? I feel safe in saying that I don't think HJM-18 is in any trouble. It should pass out of committee with a do pass, and the full Senate should pass it as well. That being said, I hope you will answer Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson's question. We get it here in Oregon, but it's been going on now for four sessions (eight years). It would be nice to hear something positive.

I appreciate all your hard work for Disabled American Veterans. Thank you!

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