NEAL P. DUNN, MD 2ND DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, **BC** 20515-0902

840 WEST 11TH STREET SUITE 2250 PANAMA CITY, FL 32401 (850) 785-0812

300 SOUTH ADAMS STREET TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301 (850) 891-8610

423 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 225-5235

February 14, 2017

Secretary David Shulkin U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Avenue NW Washington DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shulkin:

Congratulations on your unanimous confirmation to serve our nation's finest patriots as Veterans Affairs Secretary. I am confident of your aptitude and fortitude to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs in the challenging times ahead.

I believe that delivering quality health care and access, whether at a VA facility or through a community provider, is job number one. Our veterans and wounded warriors have earned this care through their service and sacrifice, and as they did not let us down, we cannot let them down. I look forward to working with you as a member of the Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee to ensure we are keeping this promise to our veterans.

We also cannot allow the process through which veterans claim earned disability compensation to impose indignity upon their honorable service. Repairing this broken process and focusing on helping veterans improve the quality of their initial claim is an opportunity to regain veterans' trust by giving timely recognition of their sacrifices. We must maximize the tools and services available to veterans as they transition out of the military, whether they are embarking on a new career, building a business or buying a home.

As you work to secure the care and services earned by those who secured our freedoms, please know the weight of this incredible responsibility will not be borne by you alone. As a U.S. Army veteran, a physician, and a member of House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am committed to helping ensure veterans get the care they need and deserve. Consider me a partner on reform and greater accountability at the Department, and I look forward to collaborating with you to better serve veterans and their families in Florida's 2nd Congressional District.

Member of Congress