

July 20, 2018

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our clinician partners – including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) supports the nomination of Robert Wilkie to be Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

We are confident that his leadership at the Defense Department and National Security Council, along with his service in the Air Force Reserve and as an intelligence officer in the Navy positions him to serve the veterans of our country as Secretary. He has demonstrated strong management of extensive and complex departments. We are confident he will be able to successfully navigate the changes the VA will make as it implements the VA Mission Act to ensure our veterans receive the high-quality care they deserve. Robert Wilkie has shown a deep commitment to serve veterans during his years in public service and he knows first-hand the commitment the VA has to care for veterans in their time of need.

We look forward to Robert Wilkie's confirmation and to working with him to strengthen the care provided to our nation's veterans, who have sacrificed for our country and deserve the highest quality care.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas P. Nickels
Executive Vice President
Government Relations and Public Policy

