



March 28, 2017

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
United States House of Representatives
2419 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy, we would like to pledge our support for H.R. 1662, to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit smoking in any facility of the Veterans Health Administration. Under this legislation, smoking would be banned inside VHA facilities immediately and outside VHA facilities within five years.

According to VA, only 20 percent of veterans enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) are smokers. Many non-smoking veteran patients are at an increased risk for cardiovascular events associated with exposure to secondhand smoke. The VHA currently provides 971 outdoor designated smoking areas and 15 indoor designated smoking areas, as required by the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992. In contrast, smoking is prohibited in non-VA federal facilities, indoor military facilities and in most private-sector national healthcare systems.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the Military and Veteran community by working to improve the lives and careers of those who served our great nation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 703-548-5800 or at michael.little@ausn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Joseph Little". To the right of the signature, there is a typed name "Michael J. Little" and the text "ABSH (AW/Sea) USNR" in a smaller font.

Michael J. Little
Director of Legislative Affairs