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*Executive Director*

March 27, 2017

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin  
State Capitol, Room 5119  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1275 (IRWIN)**

Dear Assemblymember Irwin:

The Little Hoover Commission supports Assembly Bill 1275, the measure you authored to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to monitor outcomes for California veterans.

In its 2017 report, *A New Approach to California's Veterans Homes*, the Commission found that there is a dearth of easily accessible information about California's veteran population. And specifically, the state lacks sufficient information to identify the current health care needs of California's veterans and how changes in demographics of this population might prompt changes in their needs in the future. The Commission found the state also lacks sufficient information to identify and catalogue the array of services available to meet the needs of California's veterans. Though some information is collected, it is not complete, nor available in an easily searchable, user-friendly format.

To address these deficiencies, the Commission called for the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to assess the immediate needs of California's overall veteran population, as well as project how their needs might change in the future. The Commission also recommended the department assess and catalog the array of services currently available for aged and disabled veterans and identify critical gaps. Making this information available online in a user-friendly, searchable format will help service providers, veterans and their advocates find the help they need, while also allowing policymakers to make more informed decisions about how the state invests in veterans services.

Because Assembly Bill 1275 would require CalVet to develop a system for monitoring veteran outcome indicators on a regular basis as well as the quality of programs intended to serve veterans, the Commission supports this measure as a means to developing a robust system to assess the needs of California's veteran population.

As the bill moves through the legislative process, I will be writing letters on behalf of the Commission to legislators urging aye votes. If I or the Commission can provide any further assistance or expertise, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Carole D'Elia  
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission