

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz and Ranking Member Carter,

As you begin work on the fiscal year 2021 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide robust funding to support the continued implementation of the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act, which passed as Title IX of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (P.L. 114-198).

The Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act – which we co-authored – was named in honor of Jason Simcakoski, a Wisconsin veteran who tragically lost his life at the Tomah VA Medical Center. The legislation contained improvements to a number of problems with pain management practices within the VA, including requiring the VA to update therapy and pain management guidelines, strengthen provider education and training, and improve patient advocacy. It also established an independent Office of Patient Advocacy within the office of the Under Secretary for Health.

As you continue your critical work to ensure veterans are able to access the care they need, we urge you to include the strongest possible funding to continue implementing provisions from the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act to prevent tragedies like Jason's in the future and ensure that all veterans receive the care they have earned and deserve.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress