HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, **DC** 20515-0305

March 9, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President,

Our nation's heroes deserve the best care our nation has to offer, and I wholeheartedly support efforts to protect and empower veterans. However, any efforts that seek to protect veterans must respect the right to keep and bear arms. As such, I encourage you to stop the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from disarming vulnerable veterans.

Today, veterans who have been assigned a fiduciary are determined by the VA to be financially incompetent and are treated as persons prohibited from purchasing, possessing, receiving, or transporting a firearm or ammunition pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(4). These veterans are then reported to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System alongside convicted felons and illegal aliens. In fact, one of my constituents, whose wife handles the family's finances, was determined to have a fiduciary, and subsequently learned that his Second Amendment rights would be infringed because of the VA's designation.

The VA's fiduciary rule has led to many veterans being wrongly deprived of their constitutional rights. Receiving help to manage your VA benefits or other financial matters is not the same as being "adjudicated as a mental defective" or as being "committed to a mental institution." Veterans should not have to worry about being disarmed when they seek assistance with benefits or healthcare from the VA.

The VA must stop any efforts that continue to infringe on Second Amendment rights, and I urge your Administration to take long-overdue action to respect the right of veterans to keep and bear arms.

Sincerely

Andy Biggs

Member of Congress