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Office of the International President

June 22, 2026

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 600,000 active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM Union), **I write to you today in strong opposition of the Take Care of America's Veterans Act (H.R. 9237 / S. 4744), which prioritizes outsourcing and automation over investing in the VA workforce and Veteran-centered care.**

The IAM prides itself for being a very diverse labor union that represents tens of thousands of members who are veterans of our nation's armed forces. That said, we advocate every day to ensure those who have given so much to our great nation are cared for properly and given the respect they greatly deserve. This includes proper access to quality health care and other benefits. For instance, the IAM has endorsed the bipartisan Major Richard Star Act, which would allow medically retired, combat-injured veterans to receive full military retirement pay along with VA disability compensation. Unfortunately, the Take Care of America's Veterans Act would eliminate or reduce critical disability benefits among other provisions that would further privatize the VA healthcare system.

This includes shifting care away from the VA system and into the private sector, undermining the long-term stability of VA facilities and the workforce that specializes in Veteran care. It significantly expands the Community Care program, leading to fragmented care, reduced oversight, and higher long-term costs, rather than strengthening the VA's internal healthcare system. The bill also introduces more automation into the claims process, which risks turning a flawed system into a faster and less transparent denial system for Veterans.

The broader legislative package may impact VA home loan funding fees, including maintaining higher fee levels or increasing certain loan-related costs over time. The proposals also rely heavily on pilot programs, studies, and future plans, delaying meaningful improvements while immediately restructuring key systems.

Veterans should not have to face higher housing costs or reduced benefits to fund changes elsewhere in the system.

For all the reasons explained above, the IAM firmly opposes the legislation package as written.

For questions, please reach out to IAM National Legislative and Political Director Hasan Solomon at (202) 420-5902 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Bryant'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Brian Bryant
IAM International President