July, 27, 2017

Representative Brad Weinstrup, Chairman
House Committee on Veterans Affairs
Subcommittee on Health
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Weinstrup,

The Academy of Physicians in Wound Healing (APWH) is the physician specific organization representing all prescribing physicians, including allopathic and podiatric physicians, that practice wound healing. We are aware and appreciate your amendment to HR 1058, known as the VA Provider Equity Act. The Academy representing approximately 700 physicians in wound healing supports your amendment to this bill.

Your amendment provides a long overdue provision to raise the salaries of podiatrists. This will also serve to increase recruitment of well-trained podiatric physicians to provide needed services for our veterans. Podiatric physicians have had a significant increase in training over the past number of years and provide high quality services for their patients especially in the area of wound healing. Additionally, orthopedic and other related deformities associated with trauma injury can be addressed by the well-trained podiatric surgeon. While this amendment serves to correct an inequity within the VA system, it more importantly allows veterans to obtain high quality care to best serve their needs.

We thank you for your amendment to address these issues. The APWH is pleased to provide this letter of support for what we expect to be approved legislation.

Sincerely,

Robert Bartlett, MD, FAPWHc
President, Academy of Physicians in Wound Healing, Advisory Board

Paul Kesselman, DPM, FAPWHc
Co-Chair Legislative Committee, Academy of Physicians in Wound Healing

Steven Kravitz, DPM, FAPWHc, FACFAS
Executive Director, Academy of Physicians in Wound Healing