

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

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Richard Cordray  
Director  
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau  
1700 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20552

Dear Director Cordray:

We are writing to urge the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to add military veteran identification as a data-collection point on the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act. This would provide a better snapshot of the veteran lending experience and could encourage adoption of a veteran's status question on uniform lending forms. Veteran consumers deserve an accurate and thorough comparison of the loans they are eligible for including VA loans. Collecting this data will help military and veteran consumers make informed decisions based on all of their mortgage loan options.

The VA home loan has several advantages, including the potential for no down payment as long as the sales price doesn't exceed the appraised value, no private mortgage insurance premium requirement, limits on closing cost charges, as well as protection from lenders penalty fees for paying a loan off early. Further, a veteran does not have to be a first-time homebuyer to get a VA loan and they are able to reuse the benefit. These VA home loan guarantees are all earned benefits that each veteran has earned through their service to our country.

The limited available data demonstrates that we must do more to disclose the availability of this benefit to our servicemen and women. In 2014 a Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals housing survey found that 85 percent of veterans said that they did not receive VA Loan training during service, transitioning out, or post service separation. In a 2010 VA survey, 62 percent of older veterans and 25 percent of younger veterans said their lender never discussed the VA loan option with them. According to National Mortgage News in 2014, less than 12 percent of active-duty service members and military veterans with mortgages have a loan guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

With veteran homelessness, unemployment and persistent wage stagnation across our country, the federal government must work to ensure that all veterans are educated on their benefits. Adding veteran status to the HMDA will provide the information necessary to engage with veterans regarding the VA home loan process, creating knowledgeable consumers, and responsible homeowners. We respectfully urge the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to act swiftly to address this pressing issue.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

*Frank Pallone, Jr.*

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Member of Congress

*Grace F. Napolitano*

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Member of Congress

*Hank Johnson*

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

*Jim McDermott*

Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

*Eleanor H. Norton*

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

*Michael M. Honda*

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Member of Congress

*Juan Vargas*

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

*Rubén Hinojosa*

Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress

*Luis V. Gutiérrez*

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Member of Congress

*Ruben Gallego*

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Member of Congress

*Mark Takano*

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Member of Congress

*John Garamendi*

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Member of Congress

*Alan Lowenthal*

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Member of Congress

*Michelle Lujan Grisham*

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Member of Congress

*Wm. Lacy Clay*

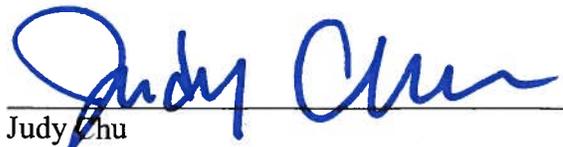
Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

*Yvette D. Clarke*

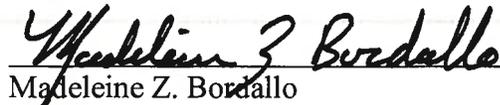
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



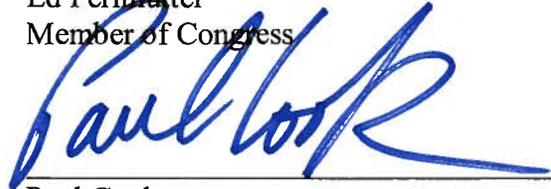
Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress



Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



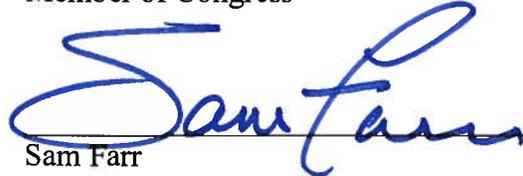
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo  
Member of Congress



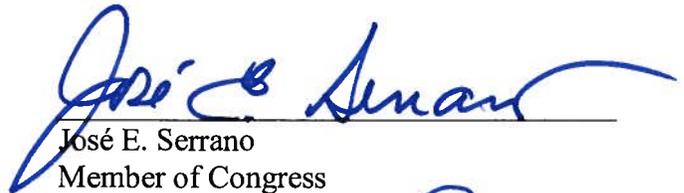
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



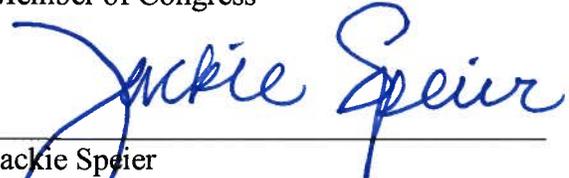
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



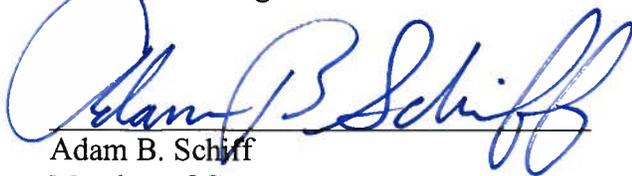
José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



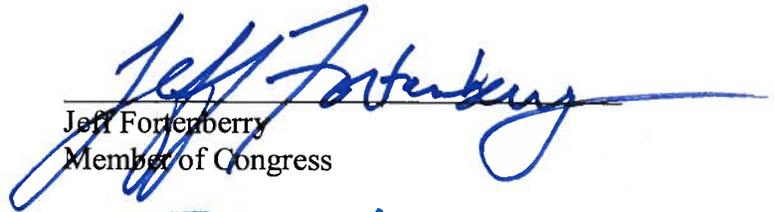
Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick  
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Jeff Fortenberry  
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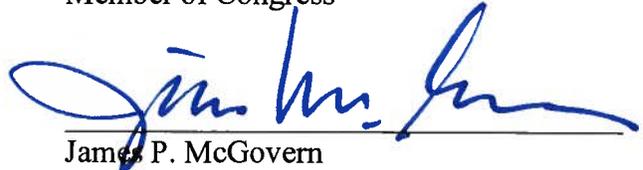
Mark Pocan  
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Brian Higgins  
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Suzan DelBene  
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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

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

September 22, 2015

Federal Housing Finance Agency  
Office of the Director  
1700 G Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20552-0003

Dear Director Mel Watt:

We are writing to urge the Federal Housing Finance Agency to add military veteran identification as an option on the uniform residential loan application. Veteran consumers deserve an accurate and thorough comparison of the loans they are eligible for including VA loans. Collecting this data will help military and veteran consumers make informed decisions based on all of their mortgage loan options.

The VA home loan has several advantages, including the potential for no down payment as long as the sales price doesn't exceed the appraised value, no private mortgage insurance premium requirement, limits on closing cost charges, as well as protection from lenders penalty fees for paying a loan off early. Further, a veteran does not have to be a first-time homebuyer to get a VA loan and they are able to reuse the benefit. These VA home loan guarantees are all earned benefits that each veteran has earned through their service to our country.

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With veteran homelessness, unemployment and persistent wage stagnation across our country, the federal government must work to ensure that all veterans are educated on their benefits. Adding veteran status to the uniform residential loan application form will provide the information necessary to engage with veterans regarding the VA home loan process, creating knowledgeable consumers, and responsible homeowners. We respectfully urge the Federal Housing Finance Agency to act swiftly to address this pressing issue.

Sincerely,



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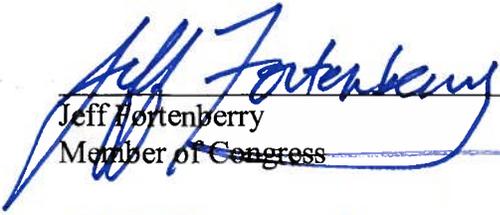
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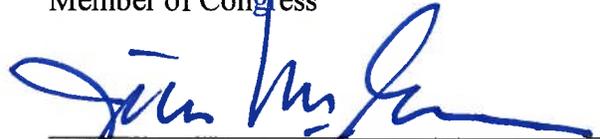
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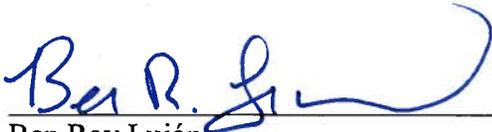
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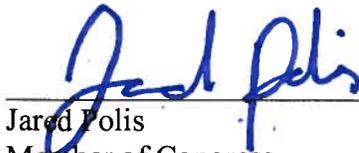
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