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February 21, 2018

Director, Regulation Policy & Management
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. NW, Rm. 1063B
Washington, DC 20420

RE: RIN 2900-AP90 Consent for Release of VA Medical Records

Dear Director:

On behalf of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), I am pleased to write in support of the proposed rule change regarding veteran's health records. With the largest veteran population in the country, San Diego is particularly hopeful that the proposed rule will be adopted and provide some regulatory relief to those who have admirably served our nation.

The Chamber regularly hears from our members and partners in the healthcare industry who express frustration at the difficulties in providing service to veterans who choose to seek care in the community versus going to a VA facility, for whatever reason. Requiring providers to go through a rigid process that slows down delivery of care or discourages from veterans for seeking care wherever they deem best, is an unsustainable way to care for this incredibly valuable population. The business community understands and appreciates the need for flexibility in this circumstance, and is hopeful that we can change this practice.

San Diego is proud to have a tremendous and active movement toward better healthcare information sharing under the direction of San Diego Health Connect. We look forward to leveraging all of their great work to better serve our veterans and their families upon enactment of the new rule. Please do not hesitate to contact Stefanie Benvenuto, Director of Public Affairs at (619) 544-1378 should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Sanders', is written over a white background.

Jerry Sanders
President & CEO
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce