

United States Senate

April 27, 2016

Michael Welch
Paralympic Program Specialist
Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 912 D
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Mr. Welch:

I am writing on behalf of the Grant for Adaptive Sports Program for Disabled Veterans and Disabled Members of the Armed Forces grant application (Opportunity Number: VA-ASG-2017-01) submitted by Horses Spirits Healing, Inc. (HSHI).

I recently addressed the issue of improving access to care for Montana's veterans with improvements I offered to the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. I specifically focused on the importance of access by our veterans in rural areas to resources and medical care. Veterans with service-related injuries — Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, or amputations — count on us to care for them as they cared for us when they honorably served their country.

Even with improvements in veteran care from the Veterans Administration, rural states like Montana are at a disadvantage given our large veteran population. It is increasingly important that private providers are engaged in the effort to help our veterans. HSHI provides a PATH-certified equine therapy program designed to help military veterans suffering from psychological trauma and physical disabilities integrate back into their families and communities, by achieving specific goals, such as improvement in personal responsibility, verbal and non-verbal communication, and self-confidence and self-control.

If funded, HSHI will expand its veteran program to assist more veterans in the region. I support HSHI's expansion and trust HSHI will have favorable outcomes for participating veterans.

I trust you will give this grant proposal fair and careful consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator