April 8, 2013

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
SD Department of Veterans Affairs
Soldiers and Sailors Building
425 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Legislation Approved in the 2013 Session

Dear Secretary Zimmerman:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations in approving your appropriation in the 2013 Legislative Session. As such, it supplements that appropriation with a specific policy guideline as approved on March 25, 2013.

While the guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

The 2013 Legislature approved an ongoing appropriation of $146,875 to fund the salary re-imbursement for County Veterans Service Officer's (CVSO) and Tribal Veteran Service Officer's (TVSO) in accordance with SDCL 33A-1-31 and SDCL 33A-1-32.

The Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to review SDCL 33A-1-16 through 34 and associated administrative rules article 50:03 to evaluate the delivery of services to South Dakota veterans through the CVSO's and TVSO's and to identify any improvements or modifications that may be needed. The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall select six individuals to serve on the work group to assist in the review of services to the state's veterans. One individual from each of the following shall be selected:

Department of the Military
SD Veterans Council
County Veterans Service Officer

Tribal Veterans Service Officer
SD Veterans Commission
SD County Commissioners Association

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs will act as Chairperson. A written report will be provided to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations by 1 October, 2013.

In addition, it is also expected that you will be prepared to address this guideline in your FY15 budget presentation to the Joint Committee next January.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Representative Fred Romkema
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations

Senator Deb Peters
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management