September XX, 2018

Dear Members of the Joint Conference Committee:

We are writing to you as organizations that help thousands of U.S. veterans and their families each day. We provide important resources such as mental health treatment, career counseling, transportation to medical appointments, assistance with benefit claims and more.

However, we are only able to serve our nations veterans and provide these vital services thanks to the generosity of the public, including other non-profit organizations like the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA).

Each year, AMA facilitates dozens of charity events across the country to support the work of veteran’s organizations like ours. Just this summer, local AMA clubs in Taylorsville, NC, Danville, IN and Farmington, CT hosted events that helped contribute to our work. And for the past three years, the AMA Foundation has held “Warrior Day” with the Indiana Warbird Campaign to provide veterans and their families with an opportunity to learn more about model aviation at no cost. Events like these allow our veterans to pursue their love of aviation and form a community.

If Congress isn’t careful, they could take away this vital funding source for our organizations. Right now, Congress is considering changes to FAA Reauthorization that would eliminate the provision that allows AMA members to fly and raise money for charities. This provision is known as the Special Rule for Model Aircraft, or Section 336, and it allows community-based organizations like AMA to safely manage a niche group of responsible hobbyists – as the organization has done for more than eighty years.

Without the Special Rule for Model Aircraft, countless fundraising events hosted by local AMA clubs would be threatened, and organizations like ours would lose an important funding stream. Our organization has received [INSERT DOLLAR AMOUNT] from events sponsored by local AMA clubs in [INSERT PERIOD OF TIME].

Every dollar counts, and if AMA clubs can’t operate as they have for years, the resources we provide veterans would be impacted. That’s why we strongly urge you to keep Section 336 in FAA Reauthorization and allow community-based organizations such as AMA to continue to fly, hold charity events and raise funds for veteran’s organizations like ours.

Sincerely,