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Carson Fox

August 9, 2017

Mr. Harry L. Tindall Chairman **Uniform Law Commission** 111 N. Wabash Ave., Suite 1010 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chairman Tindall:

On behalf of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), our division, Justice For Vets, and more than 330 veterans treatment courts across the country, I am writing to support the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws Model Veterans Treatment Court Act and accompanying Model Veterans Treatment Court Rules.

The vast majority of our veterans are strengthened by their military service; however, a growing number of veterans suffer from substance use and mental health disorders (such as post-traumatic stress), and trauma. These issues can be exacerbated by the loss of structure and camaraderie found in the military, difficulty maintaining employment and housing, and family strife. Such conditions increase the likelihood of involvement with the justice system.

Veterans treatment courts have gained national prominence as the most innovative solution for veterans caught up in the criminal justice system due to substance use and/or mental health disorders and trauma. Veterans treatment courts combine accountability with structure, treatment and mentoring, connecting these men and women to the benefits and services they have earned. Veterans treatment courts save the lives, families, and futures of our veterans while saving tax dollars for the American public.

Research confirms that treatment courts must adhere to evidence-based practices in order to have the best outcomes for participants. The Model Veterans Treatment Court Act and Model Veterans Treatment Court Rules provide a blueprint for states to ensure fidelity to the veterans treatment court model and provide guidance for the best outcomes.

NADCP and Justice For Vets stand ready to continue working with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to strengthen veterans treatment courts across the country.

Sincerely

Carson Fox

Chief Executive Officer







