

**PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.**  
FOURTH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

504 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2315

122 N. CORTEZ STREET, SUITE #104  
PRESCOTT, AZ 86301  
(928) 445-1683

270 E. HUNT HIGHWAY, SUITE #12  
SAN TAN VALLEY, AZ 85143  
(480) 882-2697

220 N. 4TH STREET  
KINGMAN, AZ 86401  
(928) 445-1683

WWW.GOSAR.HOUSE.GOV



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0301**

March 18, 2014

**COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM**

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**COMMITTEE ON  
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INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS  
WATER AND POWER

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
HVC-207, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Culberson, and Ranking Members Lowey and Bishop:

I write to request that the following language be added to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Military and Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act:

*"Total funds made available by this Act to be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay for covered conference shall not exceed \$10 million and 24 total conferences in any fiscal year. Covered conferences as defined shall include conferences with an estimated cost to the Department in excess of \$100,000. All covered conferences are required to be disclosed on a publicly available website."*

According to disclosures on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) website, there were 60 conferences which cost over \$100,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 which cost taxpayers a total of \$28,821,378.

I ask that you utilize fiscal prudence, prioritize resources towards reducing the backlog, and not allow for money to be wasted on unnecessary conferences. This language seeks to bring accountability to the conferences held by the VA. I believe these resources would be better spent on timely care for our nation's veterans.

I thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership in your respective committees.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar  
Member of Congress