



Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Chartered by the Congress of the United States

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Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), I would like to offer our support for H.R. 5620, the "VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act." This important legislation focuses on two important issues that must be addressed within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)—accountability at all levels and reform of the veterans' claims appeals process.

As you are aware, PVA has supported efforts to ensure proper accountability at all levels of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Unfortunately, in recent years there have been numerous accounts of bad actors in VA senior management (and frankly lower level management) who have failed to fulfill the responsibility of their positions and in some cases arguably violated the law. The focus on accountability in this proposal strikes a reasonable balance to ensure VA leadership has the ability to manage personnel while affording due process protections to VA employees.

Additionally, while work remains to ensure appropriate implementation, this legislation advances critically needed appeals reform. PVA, and our partners in the veterans' service organization community, has been directly engaged with VA to affect meaningful appeals reform. This legislation reflects much of that work. However, we must emphasize that VA needs a definitive plan to address implementation, specifically a plan to deal with the current inventory of appeals.

Mr. Chairman, we applaud your commitment to strong accountability and meaningful appeals reform at the VA. We hope that the Committee will consider and approve this important legislation expeditiously.

Respectfully,

Sherman Gillums, Jr.
Executive Director
Paralyzed Veterans of America