



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
380 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903

March 8, 2024

Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Rhode Island House of Representatives:

As the Executive Director of the Providence VA Regional Benefits Office, I would like to express our strong support for the House Bill No. 7609 in the Rhode Island House of Representatives, concerning a VFWRI-led legislative effort to protect Rhode Island Veterans against predatory claim sharks.

The freedoms our country enjoys were built on the sacrifice and service of our nation's Veterans. The Providence VA Regional Benefits Office has an obligation to support and care for Veterans and their families through various VA benefits. To ensure Veterans receive qualified assistance and representation when applying for those benefits, federal laws were created requiring anyone who assists in benefits claims be properly accredited through the VA Office of General Counsel (OGC). The House Bill No. 7609 will ensure the protection of our Veterans, and their families, from unaccredited predatory actors.

Sincerely,

EDWARD
MCQUADE

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E.J. McQuade III
Director, VA Regional Benefits Office

