



# YOU SERVED WITH PRIDE. NOW WE ARE PROUD TO SERVE YOU.

Serving Veterans Since 1993

2 April 2024

Rhode Island Senate  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Members of the Rhode Island Senate and House of Representatives:

As the Executive Director, on behalf of Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI), the State's largest veteran nonprofit provider of housing, employment, legal, benefit, and essential human needs services, I would like to express OSDRI's support for Senate Bill No. 2700 & House Bill No. 7609. The legislation is intended to protect Veterans from falling prey to companies and individuals engaged in predatory behavior relating to the application for service-connected disabilities filed with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

To ensure Veterans receive qualified assistance and representation when applying for those benefits, federal laws were created requiring anyone who assists in benefits claims to be properly accredited through the VA Office of General Counsel (OGC). Senate Bill No. 2700 & House Bill No. 7609 will provide additional protections and recourse for Veterans and their families from unaccredited predatory actors.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik B. Wallin, Esquire  
Captain, USAF (Fmr.)  
Executive Director & General Counsel

**A HAND UP - NOT A HAND OUT**

1010 Hartford Avenue • Johnston, Rhode Island 02919



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Phone: 401-383-4730 • Fax: 401-383-9107 • Email: [osdri@osdri.org](mailto:osdri@osdri.org) • [www.osdri.org](http://www.osdri.org)