

Resolution for Protecting Veterans from Predatory Actors

WHEREAS America's veterans are being targeted by predatory claims companies that charge exorbitant fees for services provided free of charge by veteran service organizations; and

WHEREAS these companies use aggressive marketing tactics, misleading statements, and complicated contracts to profit from veterans receiving Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefit payments; and

WHEREAS these companies charge veterans at a rate of 500 or 600 percent of whatever future increase in monthly benefits they receive – a violation of the U.S. Code, which prohibits the payment of fees based on future benefits compensation; and

WHEREAS in return for such large payments, these companies offer so-called "consulting services" and make it clear to the clients that they, themselves, are still responsible for filing the actual claim with VA. These profiteers are not accredited by VA; thus, their activities cannot be monitored by VA's Office of General Counsel; and

WHEREAS some unethical law firms are convincing Camp Lejeune veterans to file lawsuits against the federal government, yet failing to explain how the offset clause in the CLJA could deprive them of settlement money; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that Congress oppose legislation that elevates the standing of unaccredited claims companies or legitimizes predatory practices targeting veterans; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that Congress pass legislation that will restore criminal penalties in the prosecution of unaccredited predatory claims companies that target veterans and their dependents; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that Congress pass the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that Congress impose a cap on legal services provided in association with the Camp Lejeune Justice Act; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that Congress eliminate vague, impractical, and unrelated offsets awarded in association with the Camp Lejeune Justice Act.

<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/legislative/legislative-agenda-point-papers>

Passed Date:

Precinct:

Precinct Chair Signature: