

May 23, 2023

RE: Request to Co-Sponsor Bergman-Correa HR 1822, the Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans Act of 2023 (aka, "PLUS Act")

The Honorable "Chairman" Jack Bergman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
566 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable "Chairwoman" Nancy Mace
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable "Ranking Member" Lou Correa
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
2301 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the undersigned, which represent the interests and concerns of well over one million members of the Uniformed Services, their family members, retirees, and survivors, we are writing to express our support for, and encourage you to co-sponsor the bi-partisan, HR 1822, the *Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services ("PLUS") for Veterans Act of 2023*, introduced by three-star General, Rep. Bergman (R-MI), Rep. Correa (D-CA), and Rep. Mace (R-SC).

This legislation will ensure all veterans retain their right to use third party consultation as they maneuver through the complexities involved in securing disability benefits they are entitled to, while at the same time strengthening the US Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) accreditation process to ensure these actors operate under the highest standards possible.

As veterans serving veterans, many of us have navigated the laborious and unforgiving VA benefit process ourselves. We know many veterans are either not fully aware of the benefits they have earned, have tried to engage the system on their own and either failed or became too frustrated to continue. By the hundreds of thousands, veterans seek professional consultants, whether through registered Veteran Services Organizations ("VSOs") or the private sector, to help them navigate these waters. According to veterans, most VSOs cannot handle the vast demand, leaving veterans with no option but to seek third party assistance. This is especially true for veterans living in rural areas of the US who lack ease of access to federal resources or VSOs.

We believe a veteran's right should not be restricted by limiting how they approach their benefit claims. Rather we need more organizations, not less, to help assist our veterans. This bill

expands the options available to veterans underneath the accredited system, and we should let the veterans decide what works best for them and their families. As organizations dedicated to advocating for men and women who have served our country, we understand the challenges veterans face when seeking aid with their earned benefits. The *PLUS for Veterans Act* empowers these men and women to choose how they navigate and receive their hard-earned benefits in a manner that works best for them and their families.

On behalf of our members, thank you for your service and advocacy for our nation's Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families. We look forward to working together with your offices to address this important issue. We stand by our veterans and support HR 1822, and we ask you to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation that helps veterans maintain the right to choose how they pursue their VA claim.

Sincerely,

[AFG Free](#)
[Flanders Fields](#)
[Freedom Bird Foundation](#)
[Heart of an Ace](#)
[Joint Operation North Star](#)
[NMRG Rescue Project](#)
[Operation 620](#)
[Operation Recovery](#)
[Ops Sacred Promise](#)
[Project Exodus Relief](#)
[React DC](#)
[Rule 20](#)
[Special Operations Association of America](#)
[Task Force Argo](#)
[Task Force Pineapple](#)
[The Independence Fund](#)
[The Lifeline Foundation](#)
[The Moral Compass Federation](#)
[The Veteran's Education Project](#)
[Ukraine NGO Coordination Network](#)