



JOINT VETERANS COMMITTEE OF MARYLAND, Inc.

TESTIMONY

HB0267 Veteran Benefits Matters – Claim Servicers – Prohibitions and Requirements

17 January 2025

House Hearing: Economic Matters 21 January 2025 1:00pm

The Maryland Joint Veterans Committee (JVC) **SUPPORTS** HB0267 Veteran Benefits Matters – Claim Servicers – Prohibitions and Requirements for the following reasons:

- Individuals requiring compensation for assisting veterans in filing out and filing benefit claims who are not accredited by the Veterans Administration are taking advantage of veterans
 - These individuals are referred to as “Claim Sharks”
 - Promises include faster claim decisions and high disability percentages
 - Often charge 10% or more of the realized claim
 - Takes advantage of the veteran especially those with severe and life-threatening medical problems
 - Impacts the veteran mentally and physically when the promises are not realized
- VA Accredited Chapter Service Officer and Veteran Service Officers
 - Assist the veteran for free
 - Are trained and know the codes to speed up a claim when necessary
 - It is illegal to accept monetary gifts in exchange for the service
 - Receives training annually
 - Most current information regarding law
 - Increases accuracy and completeness of the claim

The JVC encourages a **FAVORABLE** vote.

The Joint Veterans Committee of Maryland, Inc. is a community of congressionally chartered veteran organizations in the State of Maryland drawn together by strong bonds of respect and mutual ideas and ideals to promote true patriotism, to pursue by legislation and other activities, to advance the welfare of all veterans, their widows, their orphans, and their dependents. JVC is comprised of the following Maryland Veteran Service Organizations: American Veterans (AMVETS), Marine Corps League (MCL), Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), Catholic War Veterans (CWV), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US (VFW).

POC:

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