



**Michael D. White** State Legislative Chairman Department of Ohio American Legion

Testimony before the Veterans and Public Safety Committee  
S.C.R No. 8 – Urge federal govt reduce processing time-veteran disability claim

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 8.

I am Michael White, a US Army Veteran of both Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. I am the State Legislative Chairman for the Department of Ohio American Legion. I am also a disabled veteran with an 80% disability rating.

Currently, the average processing time for a VA claim is between 120 – 150 days. This does not include the appeals process which averages three years to complete. As of December 2023, there are 378,000 claims in a backlog status and based upon research could reach 400,000 this year.

I have recently had my claim status re-evaluated. The VA hired an outside service to conduct the medical exams and interviews associated with the claims process. My personal experience took over six months to receive an answer.

Many veterans are in a financial burden associated with their military service disabilities and may not be able to secure full-time employment. The length of time to process a claim can cause undue financial hardship and stress as the veteran is waiting for a determination of disability from the Veterans Administration.

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, ranking member Craig, and committee members, I hope I can count on you to support our veterans seeking service-connected disability ratings and vote favorably on Senate Concurrent Resolution 8.

Thank you for allowing me to offer proponent testimony today. I am available to answer questions the committee might have.

