

“All veterans – and their spouses – should have the chance to be represented”

- Different groups of American veterans have differing concerns and problems. The experience of open and conventional warfare of Korea and the Gulf War differs greatly from the experiences in Vietnam and the second Iraq invasion. Likewise, more recently separated veterans would have more problems with psychological trauma or finding employment, issues which would already have been dealt with in older veterans who have the willingness and time to actively participate in veteran organizations. This bill would allow veteran service commissions to ensure that someone in VSC meetings will be able to raise those issues by allowing for the addition of 1 modern era veteran and 1 military spouse.
- Further, because they can observe from outside the problems veterans have, adding military spouses to the VSCs could improve the VSC analysis of those problems. It also gives a much-needed voice to spouses, who have certainly made sacrifices. More generally, this would shed light on the important role of military spouses, and the challenges they face in caring for husbands or wives with physical disabilities or mental issues. This bill would also allow VSC to honor the sacrifices made by military spouses and those who served post 9/11, a group that ranks among the greatest military personnel since the WWII generation.