

July 20, 2021

To: House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee
134 General Assembly of the State of Ohio Regular Session 2021-2022

From: Kenneth David
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RE: Senate Bill 160

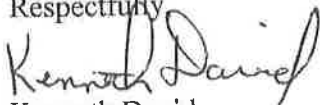
My name is Kenneth David and I am a 100% service connected disabled veteran. I received the Purple Heart with 1st oak leaf cluster, Combat Infantry Badge, Distinguished Service Cross and I'm under consideration for the Medal of Honor. In 2010 I was inducted into the 11th annual Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor and Military Bravery. I'm a member of VFW Post 3767, Purple Heart Chapter 606, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1115, 101st Airborne Division Association, 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association, Army – Navy Garrison 252, and I'm currently the DAV Adjutant / Treasurer for Trumbull County Chapter 11 having served the DAV for the past 36 years.

As a DAV officer I field numerous calls from Veterans seeking guidance on how and where to get benefits and even with all my knowledge I too continue to learn about what benefits are eligible to us veterans. It is a complicated system that is at times hard to maneuver let alone find out how to apply especially for older veterans.

It is not only the older veterans that struggle recently the DAV has seen an increase of disabled veterans coming from conflicts in Iraq, the Persian Gulf and even Afghanistan. These veterans have no ideas who to call and often are either disabled or eligible to be a service connected veteran. Many of these veterans are using or have used healthcare services outside the VA and have not received any guidance. I recently received a call from a veteran who is 50% disabled he had been hospitalized then discharged to a nursing home and no where along that path did anyone provide him with information about possible healthcare benefits from the VA.

Senate Bill 160 is a huge first step in helping spread the word about possible VA benefits to our veterans and provides that education at a critical juncture where the veteran is seeking healthcare services. This legislation would not just benefit older veterans but veterans of all ages who through their service time became injured and require ongoing care so I strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 160.

Respectfully



Kenneth David

Adjutant / Treasurer DAV Chapter 11