



May 16, 2016

Dear House Veterans Affairs Committee Member,

On Monday, May 30, our nation will once again come together on Memorial Day to celebrate those service members who gave their lives in defense of all that our country holds dear. Our nation owes a continual debt to the men and women who fought bravely for the United States of America. One of the ways that we, as a nation, can make sure that we pay this debt is by guaranteeing that our veterans are taken care of when they come back from serving our country.

H.R. 3471, the Veterans Mobility Safety Act of 2015 does just that. We, the undersigned, are a group of concerned veterans who believe that H.R. 3471 will make a difference. This common sense legislation requires that a vendor who installs, sells, or repairs auto adaptive equipment (i.e. occupied and unoccupied wheelchair and scooter lifts, driving controls, or vehicle access modifications) for veterans with disabilities go through a certification process. It is as simple as that. Incredibly, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) does not require minimum standards regarding the procurement, installation, and maintenance of this equipment. That means that many times, individuals entirely lacking experience will install mobility equipment and complex driving systems for our nation's veterans.

We owe our veterans better. Serious accidents and the potential for fatalities are possible from the work done by unaccredited installers. Further, tax dollars are spent on inferior repairs the first time around...and the second (and third) until appropriate equipment is properly installed.

Recently, there has been a push from some who believe that their company's bottom line is more important than protecting our nation's veterans. Not only have they tried to exempt themselves from the legislation, but they have incorrectly asserted that it creates a conflict of interest because the VA will use only one organization's set of certification standards in setting up its regulations. However, there are numerous organizations that the VA is more than welcome to pull from—namely, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology, the Society of Automotive Engineers, among others. As such, the conflict of interest claims are entirely unfounded, as no one organization stands to benefit from the VA setting up its standards.

This legislation is about one thing and one thing only: The protection of veterans. The House VA Health Subcommittee has already spoken unanimously and passed the legislation, as is, to the full VA Committee. Please pass H.R. 3471 and do not let detractors steer the legislation away from protecting those that served our nation with selflessness and honor.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Previous Branch of Service:

Rank: