



Challenge Alaska
3350 Commercial Dr, Suite 208
Anchorage, AK 99501

8 March 2021

The Honorable Senator Joshua Revak
State Capital Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Revak,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 40, "An Act relating to veterans 'benefits services and veterans' benefits appeal services".

As an agency Challenge Alaska improves the lives of people with disabilities, their families and the whole community through adaptive sports, Therapeutic Recreation, and education. One of the populations we serve is our Veterans that have a disability and their families. Many of these Veterans come to us after they separate from the Military and are looking for services to help them participate and re-integrate into the community and to connect with other Veterans. Often times in these programs our Veterans learn of other programs or services that they were unaware of existed.

Receiving and having access to ongoing services and programs which they qualify for and have earned is vital, not only after discharge and re-integrate into society, but for the rest of their life. The Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) are set up to provide these services, advocate, and ensure the Veterans are receiving the benefits and services that they have earned, free of charge. Senate Bill 40 will help to ensure that no Veteran or their family is incurring unnecessary financial debt in order to secure the services that can be obtained free of charge through a VSO. It also ensures that there is transparency in the process if they choose to pay for legal representation so that no Veteran or their family is being taken advantage of for financial gain.

Thank you for sponsoring this Bill, please feel free to contact me if I can be of help in any way.

Regards,

Brandon Harker, CTRS
Challenge Alaska Veterans Program Coordinator

***Disclaimer: Challenge Alaska is not, nor is it affiliated with any Veteran Service Organizations.*