

Seth Duggan

From: Ron Siebels <ronakph@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:33 PM
To: Seth Duggan; Sen. Joshua Revak; Josh Revak
Subject: SB40

Seth and Josh,

I am getting ready for a trip to Fairbanks tomorrow but I wanted to get something to you quickly. I wrote the contents below quickly and without a lot of thought. I hope it helps your efforts. Feel free to revise anything that needs changed and use any or all of it in any manner that helps you--!!

"I strongly support SB40 for a variety of reasons. This bill, when passed, will be an important asset to veterans who want to maintain and retain the full benefits they earned and deserve. No Veteran should be taken advantage of by twisted words of hope from those that do nothing more than intentionally use veterans for their own financial benefit.

I am a combat wounded veteran that retired from active duty in 1987. Since my Army retirement I have been active in Veteran issues all across the nation. Over those years I have spoken to numerous veterans that told me about forfeiting some of their Veteran benefits to deceitful attorneys who bend the truth only to benefit their own fiscal status. Many of those who manipulate trusting veterans never tell the Veteran that they can get free assistance for the same work they charge for. They promise fast assistance so the veteran can get monetary benefits quicker. But they never explain to the Veteran that any benefits they might receive will have a start date of when the injury actually occurred. When that back pay is finally approved the deceitful claim assistant pockets a percentage of that backpay. When the work is done by an accredited Service Officer the veteran keeps 100% of the backpay.

Many of these things are never explained to veterans that reside far from VA offices that could advise them. Currently deceitful attorneys are not required to inform veterans that they can get the same paid for help they provide at no cost from an accredited VSO Service Officer.

I do not think the Alaska legislature wants to see any veteran be treated unfairly by those who play the system for their own fiscal gain. By passing SB40 the Alaska legislature will be a National Trend setter in a highly beneficial bill to fix an unfair situation placed upon trusting veterans.

I strongly encourage the entire Alaska Legislature to see the importance of this bill and get it passed with quick action and the lasting pride of all who helped get the bill passed.

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