



United Veterans Council of Rhode Island

1 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Korean War Veterans
Disabled American Veterans
AMVETS
Military Women Across the Nation**

**American Legion
Jewish War Veterans
Vietnam Veterans of America
RI Marine Corps League**

John P Gallo Sr/ United Veterans Council of RI/ Written testimony in favor of H-7609.

Chairman Solomon and members of the House Corporations Committee, Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of House bill H-7609.

I would like to thank Representatives Azzinaro, Fellela, Hull, Place, Shallcross Smith, Casimiro, J. Lombardi, Solomon, Abney, and Donovan for introducing H-7609.

This bill, H-7609 would modify Rhode Island General Laws in Chapter 6-13.1 entitled "Deceptive 2 Trade Practices" It provides protection and would prevent the unethical, improper conduct and the collection of fees, by anyone advising or assisting a veteran filing a claim for disability benefits with the Department of Veterans Affairs except as authorized by federal law.

Far too many veterans are being charged a fee for help filing their claim with the Veterans Administration by "Claim Shark" agencies and lawyers that are not held to the same standards as required of Veteran Service Officers. These volunteer veteran organizations such as the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans, RI Marine Corps League and other veteran organizations. These veteran organizations represent the veteran file a claim free of charge.

All we are asking for is the same standards be applied to these other agencies and lawyers that is applied to the Veterans Service Officers that volunteer for the veteran organizations.

Respectfully Submitted,

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