

Lou Mansolillo

From: ROBERT MASON <serenamason@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 12:27 PM
To: House Corporations Committee
Cc: Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.
Subject: VFWRI HOUSE BILL NUMBER 5043 (AZZINARO) & HOUSE BILL NUMBER 5419 (O'BRIEN)

Attention = House Committee on Corporations Clerk, Louis Mansolillo, at
HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov.

Dear Mr. Manoslillo & Representative Casimiro,

Re = VFWRI HOUSE BILL NUMBER 5043 (AZZINARO) & HOUSE BILL NUMBER 5419 (O'BRIEN)

Hello. Good afternoon. On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, the House Committee on Corporations led by chairman Joseph K. Solomon, Jr. (House District 22 - Warwick) will convene a hearing in Room 135 at the Rhode Island State House at the rise of the House to consider House Bill Number 5043 (Azzinaro) and House Bill Number 5419 (O'Brien).

House Bill Number 5043 (Azzinaro) is identical to House Bill Number 7609 (Azzinaro) that was passed (67-0) by the House during the Rhode Island General Assembly's 2024 legislative session. This bill, when enacted into law would provide protection from and 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.

House Bill Number 5419 (O'Brien) was introduced into the House at the request of for-profit, predatory, claims consultant (a.k.a. claim sharks) companies like Veterans Benefits Guide (VBG) and Veterans Guardian (VG). This bill seeks to legitimize the for-profit claims consultant industry in Rhode Island. A version of this bill was recently passed in Louisiana over the objections of the veteran community. We can't have that happen here in Rhode Island! I OPPOSE this bill.

I support House Bill Number 5043 (Azzinaro) and I am in strong opposition to House Bill Number 5419. (O'Brien).

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Serena Mason
53 Forest Park Drive
North Kingstown, RI 02852

Sent from my iPad