



March 25, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman, House Corporations Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee,

As the former Acting Secretary and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the current President of the National Association for Veterans Rights (NAVR), and a Veteran myself, I am writing to express my support for Rhode Island House Bill 5419 (HB 5419), the Safeguarding American Veteran Empowerment (SAVE) Act.

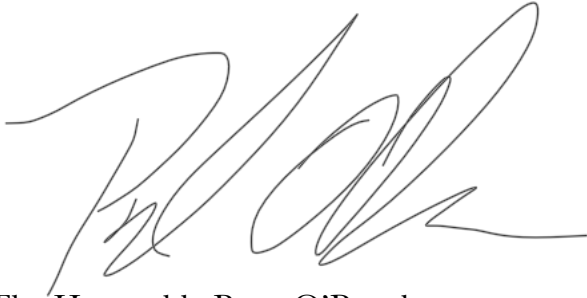
NAVR is a national trade association dedicated to promoting ethical and transparent business practices among companies serving the service-disabled Veteran community. Our member companies have helped thousands of veterans nationwide, including in Rhode Island, secure the benefits they have earned, ensuring they receive timely and effective support rather than being trapped in an overwhelmed appeals system.

HB 5419 balances the necessity of oversight with the significance of ensuring access to services for Veterans navigating the complex VA claims process. By capping fees, prohibiting upfront or nonrefundable charges, and mandating clear written agreements, this bill guarantees that Veterans are not subjected to unreasonable fees while preserving their right to seek professional assistance. Furthermore, the bill's prohibitions on misleading guarantees, the use of conflicted medical professionals, and the exploitation of Veterans' personal information through unauthorized data access serve as critical safeguards that protect those who have served our nation.

By addressing these issues comprehensively, HB 5419 serves as a model for how state governments can balance safeguarding Veterans' rights and ensuring they have access to qualified assistance. This legislation provides critical protections without dismantling the private claims service industry, which has helped thousands of Veterans in Rhode Island secure their benefits.

I commend your leadership on this important issue and strongly urge your colleagues to support HB 5419. If I can provide further insight or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Peter.ORourke@NAVR.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. O'Rourke', with a large, stylized 'P' and 'O'.

The Honorable Peter O'Rourke
President, NAVR