

## My Testimony on H-5177

Good evening Chairman Azzinaro and members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

My name is John P Gallo and I am here to testify on against House bill H-5177 as written.

I am testifying as a current member and past president of both the House Permanent Veterans Advisory Council and the United Veterans Council of Rhode Island.

We believe the bill's intent is to give priority preference to "war" veterans for admission to the Veteran's Home.

While we feel that overall this is a good bill and would allow certain members of the National Guard and Reserve Forces to qualify for admission to the Rhode Island Veterans Home. We have the following concerns.

Our concern is with line 6 on page 2 of H-5177 where it says "...who has earned a campaign ribbon, **service medal** or expeditionary medal for service..."

Our concern is that service medals aren't defined! While there are no misconceptions about what a campaign or expeditionary medal is awarded for, what is a "service" medal? For example: if during the Vietnam era an enlisted person or draftee served as a chef at Ft. Lewis in Washington and they were awarded/earned a Good Conduct medal, a Longevity Service medal or an Army Achievement medal ----- would that qualify this person as one who is eligible for "priority admission" to the Veteran's Home?

Our interpretation is that this person would not be eligible for "priority admission" to the veterans' home as a "war" veteran.

Leaving "service medal" in the bill dilutes the intention of H-5177.

Thank You,

John P Gallo