



March 23, 2017

The Honorable Thomas Rooney  
United States House of Representatives  
2160 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy, we would like to pledge our support for H.R. 506, the Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2017. This bill amends the federal criminal code to declare that any person who knowingly engages in any scheme or artifice to defraud an individual of veterans' benefits, or in connection with obtaining veteran's benefits for that individual, shall be fined, imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

In recent years, financial predators have increasingly targeted veterans, particularly elderly veterans in low-income housing or Assisted Living Facilities, in an effort to defraud them out of their Veteran's Affairs benefits. These criminals offer to help veterans with their cases at the VA and claim to get their benefits approved in record time, charging exorbitant fees that are often in the thousands of dollars. In the end, these scammers steal their money and offer them little or no assistance in return.

Under current law, it is illegal for anyone who is not an approved agent to charge a fee for helping a veteran with their VA claims. However there are no legal or financial repercussions for those who choose to blatantly violate this law. If enacted, the Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act would levy a heavy fine, imprisonment of up to five years, or both, on any individual who chooses to break the law and defraud our veterans.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the Military and Veteran community by working to improve the lives and careers of those who served our great nation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 703-548-5800 or at [michael.little@ausn.org](mailto:michael.little@ausn.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Joseph Little". To the right of the signature, there is a handwritten note: "ABH<sup>2</sup> (Adv/Sec) USNR".

Michael J. Little  
Director of Legislative Affairs

