



VFW Testifies in Support of Legislation to Protect Veterans from Predatory Claims Assistance

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SACRAMENTO, CA –The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of California is backing new legislation that seeks to strengthen protections for veterans during the VA claims process and prevent exploitation by unaccredited and unauthorized claims assistance providers. On Tuesday, July 8, 2025, VFW State Commander David Kuta testified in support of the measure before the California State Assembly Judiciary Committee.

The proposed legislation would bolster oversight by the California Secretary of Veterans Affairs and improve how services are coordinated statewide. It reaffirms that only accredited individuals can legally charge fees for helping veterans file claims, a protection rooted in federal law, and seeks to shield veterans from deceptive or misleading practices.

“As the commander of the VFWCA, it is my duty to represent the well-being and interests of our over 55,000 members,” said Commander Kuta. “That includes raising the alarm about unaccredited ‘claim shark’ companies that exploit veterans seeking the benefits they earned. Stronger leadership and accountability at the state level is a vital step toward protecting those who served.”

The VFW Department of California continues to monitor all state and national legislation that impacts veterans. Through direct engagement with lawmakers and testimony before legislative committees, the VFW has played a role in shaping nearly every major veteran’s policy enacted since the early 20th century.

To view the full hearing, visit <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/media/assembly-judiciary-committee-20250708>

For more information about the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of California, please visit vfwca.org.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is a nonprofit veterans' service organization composed of combat veterans and those who currently serve on active duty or in the Guard and Reserves. Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is the nation's largest organization of war veterans and is one of its oldest veterans' organizations. With 2.1 million members located in 7,700 VFW Posts worldwide, the VFW and its Auxiliaries are dedicated to "honor the dead by helping the living" through veterans service, legislative initiatives, youth scholarships, Buddy Poppy and national military service programs. Annually, the VFW and its Auxiliaries contribute more than 11 million hours of community service to the nation.

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