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VIEW VIDEO #40 BEFORE USING THIS LETTER

**Equipment/Software Justification for VRC
When VRC says "it's too expensive"**

Dear VRC,

First I'd like to thank you for your candor and while I certainly understand your communications that the VA policy states you can't provide the \$3,500 software because it's over your limit. I experienced some conflict that led me to reach out to you.

A few other Veterans I know who are on the same path (employment through long term services) have received upward of \$11,000 in so when I mentioned to one Veteran that my \$3500 software went over your limit, she sent me the section of M28C found at M28C.V.B.1 titled "Program Cost Approval Levels" which states:

The VRC can approve rehabilitation plans with an annual cost of up to \$35,000, with the exception of self-employment plans and construction costs associated with independent living plans. See below for additional information on the cost approval limits for those exceptions"

In addition, the M28C states if you (VRC) hit your limit on the plan we agreed upon, your VREO can approve up to 75k and the director up to 100k. It also states that if you and I disagree regarding proposed changes to my rehabilitation plan, the process is as follows;

If the VRC determines that a change is necessary, and the individual does not concur with the change, then the individual can either request a higher-level review; provide new evidence for a supplemental claim; or appeal the proposed change to the plan. See VAF 20-0998 for information on these options.

I have no desire to go anywhere near that high. But I do need this software in order to continue this program. My desire is for me to be able to do the work that I love to do, I have been trained to do and have the skills and training to do. If for some reason, you believe the \$3500 is too high for your limit, what I would ask is that I be allowed to speak with the VREO and see if he/she may be able to approve it. I never want to be seen as difficult and I never want to argue with you or show you any disrespect but at the same time, understanding the M28C guidelines, I want to be sure that I am afforded the same opportunity as my fellow veterans in the exact same program, one in particular who received over 5,000 in camera equipment for a film degree.

We agreed on this plan and this is the plan with which I'd like to continue. I realize the software/machine/etc is a little expensive but it's nowhere near your \$35,000 limit set forth by Congress. If you feel as though we cannot proceed with the software/machine/etc, I must request that I be able to speak with the VREO before any changes are made to my case. The last thing I want to do is slow down my process. I

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want to finish this program so I can be self-sufficient and support myself. This is a great program that I'm very excited about and I'm unclear as to why you believe the \$3500 is outside of your approval limits when the M28C says it should be within your limits.

Please advise and thank you for your time.