

Dear (Reps name here), My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I am a disabled veteran with \_\_\_\_\_ tours during what has become this country's longest fought war in the history of our nation.

I am writing to inform you of a travesty that is about to occur to our nations finest heroes, our disabled military veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs is proposing changes to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities specifically pertaining to the respiratory & auditory systems as well as mental disorders. The "savings" from these proposed changes are projected at 100 Billion dollars over the next 10 years. That's \$100,000 from 1 Million Veterans. The main conditions affected are Sleep Apnea, Tinnitus, and PTSD. Roughly 1.5 million veterans currently receive benefits for tinnitus, the single largest disability amongst veterans that pays approximately \$150 a month. Roughly 1 in 5 veterans have obstructive sleep apnea, a disorder that has an extensive list of debilitating symptoms that could lead to life threatening issues. And approximately 41% of veterans have a service connected mental health need according to the latest study reported in 2018 by the National Academy of Sciences. The 20 year war produced approximately 3 million veterans whom have either served in direct combat deployments or support roles. The median age is just under 37 years old which tells the greater story as more and more veterans deteriorate at a significantly faster rate than those whom have not been exposed the tremendous physical and mental stressors of combat. Understandably, the budget that takes care of our veterans has ballooned an exorbitant amount since the start of this war but the attempt to remedy should not come at the expense of our military veterans health and much needed income? These men and women have sacrificed for this nation and the benefits that they receive are compensation for the disabilities and traumas that they now have to live with. Their benefits are not a reward or a bonus. Their compensation fills a gap created by the effects of war. Quite simply, these are dues that are owed. We can not allow the veterans administration to balance a budget by literally removing money from veterans pockets. We need your help! We are reaching out to as many people as possible (Congress members, Senators, media, Veteran entities) to spread this knowledge in hopes to create a large, well informed community who will come together to prevent the VA from taking benefits from future and current veterans. And we are asking you to please do what you can to represent the veterans of your district as well as this nation to stop these actions of the VA. For more information regarding press releases, Q&A, and how you can help, please email [info@project9line.org](mailto:info@project9line.org)

Thank you for your time and we look forward to speaking with you.

Warmest Regards,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email \_\_\_\_\_

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