



YOUR VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL O&P PATIENT CARE

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Cosponsor the Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights (H.R. 3408)

The Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights (H.R. 3408) is bipartisan legislation designed to empower veterans with injuries and amputations to obtain appropriate and consistent prosthetic limb and orthotic brace (O&P) care across the country. The bill has over 30 cosponsors and was introduced by Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-NC), a registered nurse, House VA Health Subcommittee Ranking Member, Julia Brownley (D-CA), and Reps. Phil Roe (R-TN) and Raul Ruiz (D-CA), both physicians who sit on the House VA Committee.

H.R. 3408 is identical to H. R. 5428, the same bill that passed in the House in December 2010 under suspension of the rules, but the Senate did not act on the bill before it adjourned. The bill was “scored” in 2010 as not creating additional costs for the federal government.

H.R. 3408 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to post a written list of “rights” that apply to every veteran in need of O&P care (artificial limbs and orthopedic braces). The VA would be required to post the list in every VA O&P clinic across the country as well as on the VA website. The VA would be required to follow up and resolve any complaints by veterans who believe the VA is not meeting their O&P needs.

The list of rights includes the right to:

- Access appropriate O&P technology to meet individual veteran’s needs;
- Receive care from a private O&P practitioner of choice – Nearly 85% of O&P care for veterans is provided by private O&P practitioners under contract with the VA
- A second opinion from VA medical personnel as to O&P care options, and;
- Obtain a functional spare prosthesis or orthosis, to name a few.

Veterans currently have these rights but there is wide variation and inconsistency across the country in how these rights are implemented. The bill simply educates veterans of their rights and expectations for VA O&P care. It empowers veterans to advocate for themselves to get the best care that meets their individual needs. Appropriate orthotic and prosthetic care can make all the difference in the lives of veterans with disabling conditions.

We urge you to support the bipartisan Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights.

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