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SUBMITTED BY: Peter Barclay

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0922
April 27, 2011

The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman
Veterans Affairs Committee
United States House of Representatives
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

I am writing to you today on behalf of my constituent Gene D. Simes.

On April 4, 2011, I met with Mr. Simes, who is the National Chairman of Operation Firing for Effect (OFFE) along with other members and supporters of OFFE.

The purpose of this meeting was to listen to the concerns of disabled veterans whose disability compensation was being used to support third parties.

Many members of OFFE have seen their veteran's disability benefits calculated into their divorce as income, and divided with their ex-spouses in the form of support payments and legal costs. It is OFFE's stance that judges who have made these decisions regarding a veteran's benefits and pension packages have violated Title 38, Section 5301 of the United States Code.

I am very concerned about the issue of the earned benefits and services of our nation's veterans and I would request that the Committee on Veterans Affairs review this matter and determine whether these ruling are a violation to Title 38, Section 5301 of the United States Code.

I appreciate your long standing support our nation's veterans and look forward to your response to this important issue.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or my chief of staff Jonathan Blyth at Jonathan.Blyth@mail.house.gov or 202-225-3026.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen B. West". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Allen B. West
Member of Congress

AW/AZ