



6 February 2014

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren (MA)
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marco Rubio (FL)
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren and Senator Rubio,

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), we are writing to express our support for your bill S. 1993, the Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2014. This bill would protect individuals who are eligible for increased pensions under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the basis of need of regular aid and attendance from dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices.

As the United States is drawing down our military forces after over a decade of war, continued support of our men and women in uniform is crucial. Among the commitments made to our Veterans is ensuring aid to help pay for assisted living and/or in-home personal care for Veterans that qualify for a VA pension, are housebound, or require aid and attendance of another person. However, there are known instances of scam artists who charge Veterans fees for obtaining the A&A benefits even though the application process is free. Furthermore, these predators are known to also take control of the Veteran's assets and move them into ir retrievable trust or annuities that create great financial strain on older Veterans. This movement of assets can also disqualify a Veteran for other assistance programs, such as Medicaid.

S. 1993 directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to work with other Federal agencies and states to crack down on scam artists who are diverting Federal funds away from the low-income older Veterans that the VA's Aid & Attendance (A&A) benefit is intended for. In addition, the bill's language ensures that the VA has the appropriate tools to ensure that the proper measures are taken to protect older Veterans from becoming the targets of financial scams, and subsequently ensure that Federal funds are spent on helping to repay those that have put their lives on the line to protect and serve this country.

Thank you for your initiative in introducing legislation which seeks to help our Veteran community through improved measures to protect older Veterans from dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices of scam artists who divert their earned A&A benefits away from them. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 703-548-5800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony A. Wallis".

Anthony A. Wallis
Legislative Director, AUSN