



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Adequate Care for Injured Veterans May Prevent Disability

A hearing was held by the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs (VA). People who testified were representatives for the Blind Veterans Association, Fleet Reserve Association, Gold Star Wives of America, Iraq and Afghan Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, and the Non-Commissioned Officers of America.

Summary

There is need to improve the lives of those who have served and sacrificed for our country, the U.S. veterans. There is concern about the health and well being of our veterans. Young veterans ages 18 to 24, are coming home from Afghanistan, and their unemployment rate is 33%. There is need to address inadequacies in the Veterans Administration and ensure that all of the veterans who have skills and disciplines get a shot at success in their civilian workforce. In addition to unemployment, there are other VA problems. Some of these problems are backlogs in claims, access to health care, and holes in education benefits.

Disability Prevention Issues

Wounded soldiers, who need a limb amputated, tripled between 2009 and 2010 over the previous two years. The increasing number and severity of these injuries of more veterans coming home who need a lifetime of care and services will mean greater public expenditures. In addition, many veterans find access to health care difficult, and suicides from PTSD are up. There are problems for ensuring women veterans have the facilities and care they need as they come to the VA in higher numbers. In addition, there is need to fight the epidemic of 200,000 homeless veterans. There is a caregivers program that provides support for those who are forced to leave careers and their health care behind in order to care for their wounded family members. However, there are questions as to who are eligible, and a need to expand benefits to veterans of earlier wars. Thus, as a result of these conditions, there are many veterans that are in jeopardy of diminished health, functional limitations and disability.

Activity

There is ongoing study of diminishing health conditions of veterans.

Principle

U.S. veterans should be provided with “best practice” services to prevent unnecessary diminished health and disability.