



BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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July 23, 2006

Honorable Bob Filner
Acting Ranking Member
House Veterans Affairs Committee
333 Cannon House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Filner,

On behalf of the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), the only congressionally chartered veteran service organization that represents blinded veterans and their families, we are strongly opposed to the Sunset Commission legislation that is currently before this session of congress. Both H. R. 3282 and H. R. 5766 are being fast tracked through the end of July to avoid public awareness and consequences of this legislation. Both pieces of legislation would allow Sunset Commissions to abolish or consolidate any federal program based on its recommendations only.

Hiding behind the idea that these bills would eliminate wasteful spending and duplication of government programs or agencies, they will allow the White House to take on expanded powers through these Sunset Commissions, over the constitutional Implied Powers of congressional oversight on legislatively created agencies and programs. Standing committees and select committees should have the authority to regulate through public hearings on the ability of a federal agency or program if they need substantial changes or new policy, not a commission of unelected individuals.

There is significant danger to many vital programs that have been created over decades to protect the civil rights of the disabled in employment, health care, education, and transportation to cite a few, that could be fast tracked by these Sunset Commissions recommendations through the Speakers office without the benefit of hearings or motions to occur as both of these bills are written. Along with more than 241 other organizations currently opposed to these bills we add our strong opposition to those voices.

Sincerely,

Thomas Miller
Executive Director