



June 24, 2006

All Representatives  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), I urge you to oppose two bills that could jeopardize veterans' health care and benefits.

Last week, the House Government Reform Committee approved H.R. 5766, the "Government Efficiency Act," and H.R. 3283, the "Abolishment of Obsolete Agencies and Federal Sunset Act." These bills will likely be brought to the House floor later this week. These bills would create "sunset commissions" with the authority to drastically change or even eliminate altogether federal agencies. These commissions would be beholden to no one because they are politically appointed without any confirmation process.

While these bills do not specifically address veterans' programs, they could significantly threaten a range of programs that benefit disabled veterans and all veterans. It is absurd to think that federal agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), would be subject to the whims of an unelected, uninformed commission that has no appreciation for service and sacrifice.

With the creation of "sunset commissions," Congress would no longer be responsible for conducting oversight of federal government Departments, agencies, and programs. We cannot understand why Congress would relinquish such an important function. Through oversight, Congress ensures that the best quality services are provided to veterans and the larger American population. These commissions would have no vested interest in any of these programs.

PVA must reiterate our opposition to this pointless legislation. We hope that you will reject these bills and uphold the priority of veterans' programs and the responsibility of Congress to maintain them.

Sincerely,

Douglas K. Vollmer  
Associate Executive Director  
for Government Relations

Chartered by the Congress of the United States