DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Washington, D.C. 20420

FOIA Request **26-16850-F**

June 18, 2026

Melanie Sloan
1030 15th Street, NW
Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

Dear Ms. Sloan:

This is the initial agency decision to your April 2, 2026, request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, submitted to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Benefits Administration Central Office (VBACO) FOIA Office requesting the following records:

> **Requested Records**
> American Oversight requests that your agency produce the following records within twenty business days:
> All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by any of the officials listed below to any of the external entities listed below **from January 20, 2025, through August 31, 2025.**
>
> VBA Officials:
> a. Margarita Devlin, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits
> b. Sandra Flint, Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits
> c. Michael Frueh, former Acting Under Secretary for Benefits
> d. Brandye Terrell, Chief of Staff
> e. Teri McClelland, Deputy Chief of Staff
>
> External Entities:
> i. Anyone communicating as or on behalf of a Member or Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, including, but not limited to, anyone communicating by using an email address that contains "house.gov"
>
> Ii. Anyone communicating as or on behalf of a Senator or Committee of the U.S. Senate, including, but not limited to, anyone communicating by using an email address that contains "senate.gov"

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Your request was received in this office on April 3, 2026. Your FOIA request was assigned tracking number 26-16850-F. Please include the tracking number in all future

communications concerning this FOIA request.

Your request was sent to the Program Analyst for the Office of Information and Technology (OI&T) for a search to be conducted. The Program Analyst conducted a search of the Microsoft 365 and Teams utilizing the criteria of, " All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by any of the officials listed below to any of the external entities VBA Officials: a. Margarita Devlin, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits b. Sandra Flint, Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits c. Michael Frueh, former Acting Under Secretary for Benefits d. Brandye Terrell, Chief of Staff for anyone communicating on behalf of a Member or Committee of the House of Representative or on behalf of a Senator or Committee of the U.S. Senate, from January 20, 2025 through August 31, 2025" as stated in your request. At the conclusion of the search, we were provided with 4 attachments, consisting of 51 pages that have been deemed responsive to your request.

Our review of the documents revealed that they contained information that falls within the disclosure protections of FOIA Exemption 6, U.S.C. § 552 (b) (6).

FOIA Exemption 6 permits the VA to withhold a document or information contained within a document if disclosure of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of a living individual's personal privacy. Stated another way, VA may withhold information under FOIA Exemption 6 where disclosure of the information, either by itself or in conjunction with other information available to either the public or the FOIA requester, would result in an unwarranted invasion of an individual's personal privacy without contributing significantly to the public's understanding of the activities of the federal government.

Specifically, the information we are withholding under FOIA Exemption 6 consists of some VA employee's names, all cellphone numbers, all email addresses, group email addresses, Teams Call in information, password and dial in information for this request, and we are withholding the Veteran's names and their family members referenced in the responsive information. As there is a high probability that that someone could contact the individuals to harass, retaliate, and expose their private life to public scrutiny.

The coverage of FOIA Exemption 6 is absolute unless the FOIA requester can demonstrate a countervailing public interest in the requested information by demonstrating that the individual is in a position to provide the requested information to members of the general public and that the information requested contributes significantly to the public's understanding of the activities of the Federal government.

Additionally, the requester must demonstrate how the public's need to understand the information significantly outweighs the privacy interest of the person to whom the information pertains. Upon consideration of the materials provided, we have not been able to identify a countervailing public interest of sufficient magnitude to outweigh the privacy interest in this case. The individuals associated with this information have a personal privacy interest in the information that outweighs any public interest served by the disclosure of their identities under FOIA. Consequently, we are granting in part your request for this information under FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6).

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If you disagree with this granted in part under FOIA (b)(6), please be advised that you may appeal to:

Office of the General Counsel (024)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420
Email: ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov

Should you choose to file an appeal, it must be postmarked or electronically transmitted no later than ninety (90) calendar days from the date of this letter. Please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly state why you disagree with the determinations set forth in this response.

You may also seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services for any other aspect of your FOIA request, excluding the release determination, from VBA's FOIA Public Liaison and/or Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) as provided below:

VBA FOIA Public Liaison
Email: FOIAHelp@va.gov

Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Email: ogis@nara.gov
Fax: (202) 741-5769

NOTE: Per our acknowledgment letter to you dated April 23, 2026, you were informed that our office would process items: #A – #D, and the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (OSVA) would process item #E, with a direct reply to you. Please be advised, that this concludes the VBACO FOIA Office response to your request. If you have any further questions, please contact us, and reference your FOIA case number at the top of this page by email at: FOIAHelp@va.gov.

Sincerely,

Josephine Sibley

Josephine Sibley
VBACO FOIA Officer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Email: josephine.sibley@va.gov

Enclosure: 51 Pages

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tang, Jenny
Sent: Tue, 15 Apr 2025 16:42:11 +0000
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Cc: Lucero, Alex; (b)(6) ; (b)(6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: casework - (b)(6)

Thank you!

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 12:41 PM
To: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6) @mail.house.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6) @mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) ; (b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

On it, Jenny. Thank you for flagging.

Mike

From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6) @mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 8:25 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6) @mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] casework - (b)(6)

Hello Mike,

Could you please help us get this casework to the right place? We hope to understand the status of (b)(6) claims, and why he's been asked to do multiple C&P exams, including why he was told he only needed xrays done, but the contracted vendor reportedly told him and his caregiver it was "policy" for him to undergo a complete new C&P exam.

Thanks!
Jenny

Jenny J. Tang | Subcommittee Staff Director
Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12)
(b)(6) | veterans.house.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tang, Jenny
Sent: Mon, 28 Apr 2025 19:37:40 +0000
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Cc: Lucero, Alex
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: casework - (b)(6)

Thank you Mike!!

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 2:08 PM
To: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: FW: casework - (b)(6)

Jenny –

FYI – the rating was completed on April 24, 2025, for the Veteran (b)(6). He was granted service connection for 4 disabilities which increased his combined evaluation from 90% with Individual Unemployability to 100% effective August 11, 2018.

Since he was already receiving payment at the 100% rate (90% plus IU), his monthly payment amount does not change and there is no retro payment.

Best regards,
Mike
PRE-DECISIONAL

From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 9:07 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>;(b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>;(b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: casework -(b)(6)

Hello Mike, thanks so much for this update. He does have a caregiver,(b)(6), who takes care of all his matters given that his TBI is so bad. I'll let them know that only an opinion is needed. This means he does not need to travel the hours it takes for him to go to another exam, correct?

Thank you!

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 8:31 AM
To: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>;(b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>;(b)(6)

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(b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

Jenny –

Both the St. Petersburg RO and VBA Client Relations have attempted to call (b)(6) multiple times but have not been successful.

Therefore, we sent an email on April 18, 2025, providing him with an explanation that the **additional VA examination is for a clarifying medical opinion only**.

Also, (b)(6) file is annotated for terminal illness and will receive expedited processing once the medical opinion has been received.

Mike

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: casework - (b)(6)

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Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
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From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 8:25 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] casework - (b)(6)

Hello Mike,

Could you please help us get this casework to the right place? We hope to understand the status of (b)(6) claims, and why he's been asked to do multiple C&P exams, including why he was told he only needed xrays done, but the contracted vendor reportedly told him and his caregiver it was "policy" for him to undergo a complete new C&P exam.

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Thanks!
Jenny

Jenny J. Tang | Subcommittee Staff Director
Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12)
(b)(6) | veterans.house.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Clark, Jon
Sent: Mon, 7 Apr 2025 15:10:39 +0000
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Chairman Bost - Privacy Release Form

Thanks I think they are showing on his account that it is at the rating stage. Thanks! – (b)(6)

Jon Clark
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
(C) (b)(6)

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 10:58 AM
To: Clark, Jon <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Chairman Bost - Privacy Release Form

Of course I will – last I saw was 2 weeks ago when we had spoken with the Veteran (he had been released from the hospital). Based on what you wrote, I have asked for a decision asap – hoping we have the evidence from the exam.

Will let you know,
Mike

From: Clark, Jon <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 9:13 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Chairman Bost - Privacy Release Form

Good morning Mike, if you have moment can you please check back on this one? The veteran is now on life support and likely to not survive the week and I know his family would be grateful to have this addressed one way or another before then. Thanks my friend! – (b)(6)

Jon Clark
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
(C) (b)(6)

From: Clark, Jon <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 8:17 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: Chairman Bost - Privacy Release Form

Thank you!

Jon Clark

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Staff Director
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12)
(C) (b)(6) | veterans.house.gov

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 4:57:53 PM
To: Clark, Jon <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Chairman Bost - Privacy Release Form

You got it, Jon – hang on.

Mike

From: Clark, Jon <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 11:46 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Chairman Bost - Privacy Release Form

Hi Mike,

I hope you are doing well over there. I wanted to see if you can have someone look up this case for me and get a status update. The veteran is very ill and there is considerable concern he may die very soon. I believe Optum is doing a exam next week but if you can have folks take a look and see if there is anything else they need or we can expedite as a hardship I would really appreciate it. Thanks my friend and lets get that (b)(6) soon! – (b)(6)

Jon Clark
Staff Director
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12)
(C) (b)(6) | veterans.house.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Clark, Jon
Sent: Mon, 7 Apr 2025 13:12:40 +0000
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Chairman Bost - Privacy Release Form

Good morning Mike, if you have moment can you please check back on this one? The veteran is now on life support and likely to not survive the week and I know his family would be grateful to have this addressed one way or another before then. Thanks my friend! – (b)(6)

Jon Clark
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
(C) (b)(6)

From: Clark, Jon <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 8:17 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: Chairman Bost - Privacy Release Form

Thank you!

Jon Clark
Staff Director
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12)
(C) (b)(6) | veterans.house.gov

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 4:57:53 PM
To: Clark, Jon <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Chairman Bost - Privacy Release Form

You got it, Jon – hang on.

Mike

From: Clark, Jon <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 11:46 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Chairman Bost - Privacy Release Form

Hi Mike,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I hope you are doing well over there. I wanted to see if you can have someone look up this case for me and get a status update. The veteran is very ill and there is considerable concern he may die very soon. I believe Optum is doing a exam next week but if you can have folks take a look and see if there is anything else they need or we can expedite as a hardship I would really appreciate it. Thanks my friend and lets get that beer soon! –(b)(6)

Jon Clark
Staff Director
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12)
(C)(b)(6) | veterans.house.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) (Veterans Affairs)
Sent: Mon, 31 Mar 2025 20:15:45 +0000
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Cc: (b)(6) ;; (b)(6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Oh thank you so much! Appreciate it. (Sorry (b)(6) just didn't want to bother you too 😊)

Hope everything (b)(6) is okay…I'll be thinking of her!

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 12:41 PM
To: Baron, Kelsey (Veterans Affairs) <(b)(6)@vetaff.senate.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Kelsey –

Of course I will look into this right away. I've added (b)(6), since (b)(6) had a (b)(6) and (b)(6) is holding down the fort.

Best regards,
Mike

From: Baron, Kelsey (Veterans Affairs) <(b)(6)@vetaff.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 11:35 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley
Importance: High

Mike –

Happy Monday…hope you're doing well. We received the below inquiry from Senator Grassley's office. Can your team please take a look at this, because this is quite concerning if VBA did tell (b)(6) that he was going to receive IU, so he then leaves his job, and then VBA comes back and says that they were wrong and he is no longer eligible for IU and now he's out of a job as well. Can you please take a look at this and get something back to me as soon as possible?

I know you're busy, but would appreciate your attention to this particular case. Thank you!

Kelsey

From: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 10:21 AM

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To: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good Morning, Sir or Ma'am,
Attached is (b)(6) PRF, as well as supporting documents.
Just to clarify, was (b)(6) receiving his Decision Review Officer Decision dated 12/06/2024 in error?
Was the attached email from VBADES to the Veterans VSO confirming that the Veteran was granted P&T and stating that it is not temporary also an error?
Upon receiving this notice in December of 2024, the Veteran quit working.

Any assistance you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Clayton R. Brown
Stars of Valor Fellow
(b)(6)
(b)(6) @grassley.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley
Get The Scoop

From: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 3:02 PM
To: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6) @grassley.senate.gov>; VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good afternoon, thank you for your inquiry.

A review of (b)(6) last decision showed he was granted temporary 100% from December 8, 2023-March 1, 2024, due to being on short term disability.

The decision included in the notification letter dated December 9, 2024, stated Entitlement to individual unemployability is granted from December 8, 2023 to March 1, 2024 because you are unable to secure or follow a substantial The effective date of this grant is December 08, 2023. Entitlement has been established from the date your last worked, December 08, 2023, terminating, effective the date your short-term disability benefit(s) end, March 01, 2024, as verified by your employer. When a request for entitlement to unemployability is received within one year of the date last worked, the effective date may be set at the earliest factual ascertainable date. (38 CFR 3.400) ly

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gainful occupation, as a result of your service-connected cervical spine degenerative joint disease, degenerative arthritis, intervertebral disc syndrome, scar(s), anterior neck, scar(s), cranial, bilateral, radiculopathy, bilateral upper extremity(ies). (38 CFR 4.16).

Please Note: Temporary individual unemployability is warranted. This is so because Veteran is temporarily disabled and currently an active employee, albiet not receiving compensation. It follows that rating decision, dated June 11, 2024, erroneously denied entitlement based on being employed. As such, 38 CFR 4.16 authorizes VA to assign an Individual Unemployability (IU) rating, due to a Veteran's temporary inability to follow a substantially gainful occupation. Receipt of temporary disability benefits, whether short- or long-term, and/or receipt of accrued leave benefits does not necessarily warrant a certain decision in IU claims. Rather, the determination of entitlement to IU must be made based on ability or inability to follow a substantially gainful occupation. Currently, the Veteran is an active employee on leave, related to the service connected cervical spine condition, post-surgery. Consideration has been given to the relevance of receipt of temporary disability benefits, which began January 13, 2024, ending March 01, 2024.

Additionally, Veteran is in receipt of accrued leave benefits, sick and vacation, to pay for employment benefit(s), and confirmed by employer, Marshall County, as $164.10, monthly. No other income is confirmed, in this case. However, temporary benefit(s) are established because Veteran's employer confirms Veteran as current employee, and a return to work requirement is imposed, with full duty. Further, the employer, noted, there is no long term light duty available. Extension of benefit(s) or conversion to permanency may be made on a case-by case basis, as here, Veteran may submit information of no longer being employed, or extension of short-term, rollover to long-term disability, for consideration. Based on the foregoing, temporary unemployability is granted.

The 100% evaluation was for a specific period and the notification letter dated December 9, 2024, was in error informing (b)(6) his children were eligible for Dependents Education Assistance (Chapter 34), I apologize for the error.

Upon review of (b)(6) VA file I did uncover (b)(6) received a letter from VA stating he was being paid at the 100% rate the state of Iowa tax purposes. If (b)(6) (b)(6) submitted this letter to NOT pay property taxes, this was in error, and he should review his property taxes to be sure they are in good standing.

(b)(6) has filed a claim for individual unemployability on February 27, 2025, and that claim remains pending development.

Please let me know if you need anything additional. V/r (b)(6)

(b)(6)
Coach
Des Moines Regional Office

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210 Walnut
Des Moines IA 50309

From: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6) @grassley.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 9:19 AM
To: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good Morning,
Thank you for your response. It is understood that (b)(6) was never paid at the 100% Rate and was informed that the rating was permanent, as stated in the notification attached to his PRF.

Could you provide clarity on this matter?

Respectfully,

Clayton R. Brown
Stars of Valor Fellow
(b)(6)
(b)(6) @grassley.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley
Get The Scoop

From: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 2:01 PM
To: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6) @grassley.senate.gov>
Cc: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good afternoon,

A review of (b)(6) file indicates the DROC decided his request for a Higher-Level Review on December 6, 2024, with notification provided on December 9, 2024 . The Rating Decision granted temporary entitlement to Individual Unemployability (payable at the 100 percent rate) from December 8, 2023, to March 1, 2024. He is currently entitled to compensation at the 90 percent disability rate.

We are very grateful for the service rendered by (b)(6) on behalf of our Nation, and thank you for your partnership in assisting him. If our office can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to assist you.

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Respectfully,

(b)(6)
AVSCM Rating/Post/QRT
Des Moines VA Regional Office
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines IA 50309

From: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 1:25 PM
To: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good Afternoon,

Enclosed please find correspondents from (b)(6) (PR included)
(b)(6) is requesting assistance With receiving his 100% disability and back pay.
(b)(6) is currently only being paid at a 90% disability rating.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be appreciated.
Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Clayton R. Brown
Stars of Valor Fellow
(b)(6)
(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley
Get The Scoop

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Clark, Jon
Sent: Fri, 4 Apr 2025 03:07:05 +0000
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Section 207 Dole Act: 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act of 2025 (Public Law 118-210)

Yes! Let me check with the boss and get back to you!

Jon Clark
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
(C) (b)(6)

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 3:09 PM
To: Clark, Jon <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Section 207 Dole Act: 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act of 2025 (Public Law 118-210)

Thanks, Jon.

Are we going to reschedule (b)(6)? Check with the boss and let me know. I could use a chance to unwind.

Mike

From: Clark, Jon <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 2:22 PM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Section 207 Dole Act: 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act of 2025 (Public Law 118-210)

This is coming your way…..

Jon Clark
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
(C) (b)(6)

From: Clark, Jon
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 2:22 PM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Gonzalez, Steve <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; Bergerson, Chase (b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; Flynn, Katy <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: FW: Section 207 Dole Act: 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act of 2025 (Public Law 118-210)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

This is the type of stuff I was talking about. This is implementation of the Dole Act and could have been discussed on the monthly EDU call that hasn't happened since February or been discussed in a briefing request we have had out there since January.

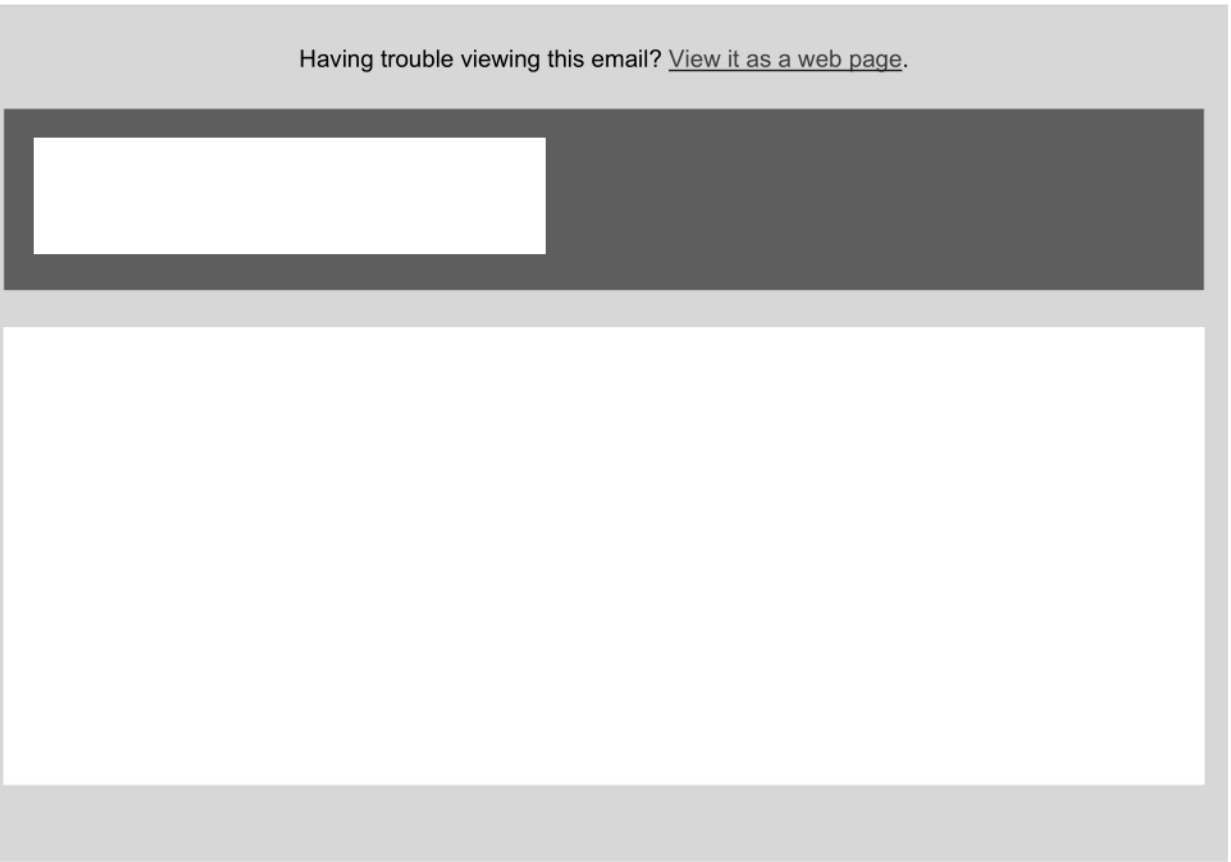
It baffles my mind that this would go to SCO's without briefing Congress.

Please advise, thanks! – (b)(6)

Jon Clark
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
(C) (b)(6)

From: Veterans Benefits Administration <(b)(6)@messages.va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 2:02 PM
To: Clark, Jon (b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Section 207 Dole Act: 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act of 2025 (Public Law 118-210)

Having trouble viewing this email? View it as a web page.



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dear School Official,

You have previously been notified of the passage of the Dole Act, 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act of 2025 (Public Law 118-210).

Today we want to tell you of the importance of Section 207 of the Dole Act, which becomes effective for terms beginning on or after August 1, 2025. Section 207, "Requirement that educational institutions approved for purposes of Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs provide digital official transcripts", requires institutions of higher learning (IHLs) to make "available to each eligible person or veteran a copy of the person or veteran's official transcript in a digital format".

All accredited institutions must make available the transcript to any student enrolled in any program. Non-accredited IHLs are only required to make available the transcript to students enrolled in a standard college degree program; the requirement does not apply to non-college degree programs.

The amendments made by this section shall take effect on August 1, 2025, and will apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after such date.

Your State Approving Agency will ensure that IHLs adhere to the statute, as it is written.

The National Training Team-Schools covered the Dole Act and Section 207 topic on February 20, 2025, in the February Office Hours 2025 School Certifying Officials session. A recording of this session is available here.

You may contact (b)(6) @va.gov or your State Approving Agency if you have further questions or concerns regarding this requirement.

Respectfully,
Education Service

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Benefits Administration

1-888-442-4551, TDD: 711

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Do you have a question or concern about your benefits?
Contact us safely and securely with AskVA!

If you know a Veteran who is in crisis,
call the Veterans Crisis Line at 988 press 1.

Connect With Us



Update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your Subscriber Preferences Page. You will need to use your email address to log in. For questions or problems with the subscription service, visit subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com



Sent to (b)(6) @mail.house.gov on behalf of US Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration · 810 Vermont Avenue, NW · Washington, DC 20420 · 1-800-827-1000

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) Vbavaco on behalf of Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Sent: Wed, 19 Feb 2025 16:17:45 +0000
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Monthly Call w/Chase Bergerson
Categories: External to VBA Meeting

Purpose: Establish monthly meeting cadence to discuss EO matters
Scheduled By: Staff Assistant (b)(6) (b)(6) @va.gov **1/13/2025.**

Requested By:
(b)(6) / EO Staff Director
(b)(6)
(b)(6) @mail.house.gov

Microsoft Teams Need help?

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: (b)(6)

Passcode: (b)(6)

Dial in by phone

(b)(6) # United States, Chicago

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: (b)(6) #

For organizers: Meeting options | Reset dial-in PIN

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Sent: Mon, 28 Apr 2025 18:08:16 +0000
To: (b)(6) VBAVACO
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

You rock, as always.

Thank you for ALL your help over the years.

Mike

From: (b)(6) VBAVACO (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 2:04 PM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

Good morning, Mike

A rating was completed on April 24, 2025, for the Veteran, (b)(6). He was granted service connection for 4 disabilities which increased his combined evaluation from 90% with Individual Unemployability to 100% effective August 11, 2018.

Since he was already receiving payment at the 100% rate (90% plus IU), his monthly payment amount does not change and there is no retro payment.

Angela
PRE-DECISIONAL

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 2:02 PM
To: (b)(6) VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)
Importance: High

TY!

From: (b)(6) VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 1:48 PM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework (b)(6)

Mike
It was an ACE exam. I have asked the team to see if results have been received so we can get a decision done./

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

PRE-DECISIONAL

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 9:30 AM
To: (b)(6), VBAVACO (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: casework - (b)(6)
Importance: High

Can you answer the question Jenny posed – does the Veterna have to travel to the new exam, or is it ACE only?

From: Tang, Jenny (b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 9:07 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: casework - (b)(6)

Hello Mike, thanks so much for this update. He does have a caregiver, (b)(6), who takes care of all his matters given that his TBI is so bad. I'll let them know that only an opinion is needed. This means he does not need to travel the hours it takes for him to go to another exam, correct?

Thank you!

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 8:31 AM
To: Tang, Jenny (b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex (b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>; Call, (b)(6) (b)(6). (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

Jenny –

Both the St. Petersburg RO and VBA Client Relations have attempted to call (b)(6) multiple times but have not been successful.

Therefore, we sent an email on April 18, 2025, providing him with an explanation that the **additional VA examination is for a clarifying medical opinion only**.

Also, (b)(6) file is annotated for terminal illness and will receive expedited processing once the medical opinion has been received.

Mike

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: casework - (b)(6)

Thank you!

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 12:41 PM
To: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

On it, Jenny. Thank you for flagging.

Mike

From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 8:25 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] casework - (b)(6)

Hello Mike,

Could you please help us get this casework to the right place? We hope to understand the status of (b)(6) claims, and why he's been asked to do multiple C&P exams, including why he was told he only needed xrays done, but the contracted vendor reportedly told him and his caregiver it was "policy" for him to undergo a complete new C&P exam.

Thanks!
Jenny

Jenny J. Tang | Subcommittee Staff Director
Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12)
(b)(6) | veterans.house.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) VBAVACO
Sent: Mon, 28 Apr 2025 18:04:11 +0000
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

Good morning, Mike

A rating was completed on April 24, 2025, for the Veteran, (b)(6). He was granted service connection for 4 disabilities which increased his combined evaluation from 90% with Individual Unemployability to 100% effective August 11, 2018.

Since he was already receiving payment at the 100% rate (90% plus IU), his monthly payment amount does not change and there is no retro payment.

Angela
PRE-DECISIONAL

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 2:02 PM
To: (b)(6) VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)
Importance: High

TY!

From: (b)(6), VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 1:48 PM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

Mike
It was an ACE exam. I have asked the team to see if results have been received so we can get a decision done./

(b)(6)
PRE-DECISIONAL

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 9:30 AM
To: (b)(6) VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: casework - (b)(6)
Importance: High

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: casework - (b)(6)

Hello Mike, thanks so much for this update. He does have a caregiver, (b)(6), who takes care of all his matters given that his TBI is so bad. I'll let them know that only an opinion is needed. This means he does not need to travel the hours it takes for him to go to another exam, correct?

Thank you!

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Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 8:31 AM
To: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

Jenny –

Both the St. Petersburg RO and VBA Client Relations have attempted to call (b)(6) multiple times but have not been successful.

Therefore, we sent an email on April 18, 2025, providing him with an explanation that the **additional VA examination is for a clarifying medical opinion only**.

Also, (b)(6) file is annotated for terminal illness and will receive expedited processing once the medical opinion has been received.

Mike

From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: casework - (b)(6)

Thank you!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 12:41 PM
To: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>;(b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>;(b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

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Mike

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Hello Mike,

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Thanks!
Jenny

Jenny J. Tang | Subcommittee Staff Director
Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12)
(b)(6) | veterans.house.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Sent: Wed, 23 Apr 2025 18:01:45 +0000
To: (b)(6) VBAVACO
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

TY!

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Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 1:48 PM
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Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

Mike
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(b)(6)
PRE-DECISIONAL

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: casework - (b)(6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(<(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

Jenny –

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Mike

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To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6) @mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6 <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: casework - (b)(6)

Thank you!

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 12:41 PM
To: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6) @mail.house.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6) @mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: casework - (b)(6)

On it, Jenny. Thank you for flagging.

Mike

From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6) @mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 8:25 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6) @mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] casework (b)(6)

Hello Mike,

Could you please help us get this casework to the right place? We hope to understand the status of (b)(6) claims, and why he's been asked to do multiple C&P exams, including why he was told he only needed xrays done, but the contracted vendor reportedly told him and his caregiver it was "policy" for him to undergo a complete new C&P exam.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks!
Jenny

Jenny J. Tang | Subcommittee Staff Director
Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12)
(b)(6) | veterans.house.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Mon, 31 Mar 2025 17:08:07 +0000
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO; (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Hi Mike. The emails refer to a number of attachments. Would you share those with me?

Thanks

Get Outlook for iOS
From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 12:41:23 PM
To: Baron, Kelsey (Veterans Affairs) <(b)(6)@vetaff.senate.gov>
Cc: Calderon, Heidi, <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Call, Dennis J. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Kelsey –

Of course I will look into this right away. I've added (b)(6), since (b)(6) had a medical emergency and (b)(6) is holding down the fort.

Best regards,
Mike

From: Baron, Kelsey (Veterans Affairs) <(b)(6)@vetaff.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 11:35 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6), <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley
Importance: High

Mike –

Happy Monday…hope you're doing well. We received the below inquiry from Senator Grassley's office. Can your team please take a look at this, because this is quite concerning if VBA did tell (b)(6) that he was going to receive IU, so he then leaves his job, and then VBA comes back and says that they were wrong and he is no longer eligible for IU and now he's out of a job as well. Can you please take a look at this and get something back to me as soon as possible?

I know you're busy, but would appreciate your attention to this particular case. Thank you!

Kelsey

From: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 10:21 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good Morning, Sir or Ma'am,
Attached is (b)(6) PRF, as well as supporting documents.
Just to clarify, was (b)(6) receiving his Decision Review Officer Decision dated 12/06/2024 in error?
Was the attached email from VBADES to the Veterans VSO confirming that the Veteran was granted P&T and stating that it is not temporary also an error?
Upon receiving this notice in December of 2024, the Veteran quit working.

Any assistance you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Clayton R. Brown
Stars of Valor Fellow
(b)(6)
(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley
Get The Scoop

From: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 3:02 PM
To: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov>; VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good afternoon, thank you for your inquiry.

A review of (b)(6) last decision showed he was granted temporary 100% from December 8, 2023-March 1, 2024, due to being on short term disability.

The decision included in the notification letter dated December 9, 2024, stated Entitlement to individual unemployability is granted from December 8, 2023 to March 1, 2024 because you are unable to secure or follow a substantial The effective date of this grant is December 08, 2023. Entitlement has been established from the date your last worked, December 08, 2023, terminating, effective the date your short-term disability benefit(s) end, March 01, 2024, as verified by your employer. When a request for entitlement to unemployability is received within one year of the date last worked, the effective date may be set at the earliest factual ascertainable date. (38 CFR 3.400) ly

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

gainful occupation, as a result of your service-connected cervical spine degenerative joint disease, degenerative arthritis, intervertebral disc syndrome, scar(s), anterior neck, scar(s), cranial, bilateral, radiculopathy, bilateral upper extremity(ies). (38 CFR 4.16).

Please Note: Temporary individual unemployability is warranted. This is so because Veteran is temporarily disabled and currently an active employee, albiet not receiving compensation. It follows that rating decision, dated June 11, 2024, erroneously denied entitlement based on being employed. As such, 38 CFR 4.16 authorizes VA to assign an Individual Unemployability (IU) rating, due to a Veteran's temporary inability to follow a substantially gainful occupation. Receipt of temporary disability benefits, whether short- or long-term, and/or receipt of accrued leave benefits does not necessarily warrant a certain decision in IU claims. Rather, the determination of entitlement to IU must be made based on ability or inability to follow a substantially gainful occupation. Currently, the Veteran is an active employee on leave, related to the service connected cervical spine condition, post-surgery. Consideration has been given to the relevance of receipt of temporary disability benefits, which began January 13, 2024, ending March 01, 2024.

Additionally, Veteran is in receipt of accrued leave benefits, sick and vacation, to pay for employment benefit(s), and confirmed by employer, Marshall County, as $164.10, monthly. No other income is confirmed, in this case. However, temporary benefit(s) are established because Veteran's employer confirms Veteran as current employee, and a return to work requirement is imposed, with full duty. Further, the employer, noted, there is no long term light duty available. Extension of benefit(s) or conversion to permanency may be made on a case-by case basis, as here, Veteran may submit information of no longer being employed, or extension of short-term, rollover to long-term disability, for consideration. Based on the foregoing, temporary unemployability is granted.

The 100% evaluation was for a specific period and the notification letter dated December 9, 2024, was in error informing (b)(6) his children were eligible for Dependents Education Assistance (Chapter 34), I apologize for the error.

Upon review of (b)(6) VA file I did uncover (b)(6) received a letter from VA stating he was being paid at the 100% rate the state of Iowa tax purposes. If (b)(6) (b)(6) submitted this letter to NOT pay property taxes, this was in error, and he should review his property taxes to be sure they are in good standing.

(b)(6) has filed a claim for individual unemployability on February 27, 2025, and that claim remains pending development.

Please let me know if you need anything additional. V/r (b)(6)

(b)(6)
Coach
Des Moines Regional Office

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

210 Walnut
Des Moines IA 50309

From: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6) @grassley.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 9:19 AM
To: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good Morning,
Thank you for your response. It is understood that (b)(6) was never paid at the 100% Rate and was informed that the rating was permanent, as stated in the notification attached to his PRF.

Could you provide clarity on this matter?

Respectfully,

Clayton R. Brown
Stars of Valor Fellow
(b)(6)
(b)(6) @grassley.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley
Get The Scoop

From: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 2:01 PM
To: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6) @grassley.senate.gov>
Cc: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good afternoon,

A review of (b)(6) file indicates the DROC decided his request for a Higher-Level Review on December 6, 2024, with notification provided on December 9, 2024 . The Rating Decision granted temporary entitlement to Individual Unemployability (payable at the 100 percent rate) from December 8, 2023, to March 1, 2024. He is currently entitled to compensation at the 90 percent disability rate.

We are very grateful for the service rendered by (b)(6) , on behalf of our Nation, and thank you for your partnership in assisting him. If our office can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to assist you.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Respectfully,

(b)(6)
AVSCM Rating/Post/QRT
Des Moines VA Regional Office
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines IA 50309

From: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 1:25 PM
To: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good Afternoon,

Enclosed please find correspondents from (b)(6). (PR included)
(b)(6) is requesting assistance With receiving his 100% disability and back pay.
(b)(6) is currently only being paid at a 90% disability rating.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be appreciated.
Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Clayton R. Brown
Stars of Valor Fellow
(b)(6)
(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley
Get The Scoop

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Sent: Mon, 31 Mar 2025 16:41:23 +0000
To: Baron, Kelsey (Veterans Affairs)
Cc: (b)(6) ; (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Kelsey –

Of course I will look into this right away. I've added (b)(6) since (b)(6) had a medical emergency and (b)(6) is holding down the fort.

Best regards,
Mike

From: Baron, Kelsey (Veterans Affairs) <(b)(6)@vetaff.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 11:35 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) , <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley
Importance: High

Mike –

Happy Monday…hope you're doing well. We received the below inquiry from Senator Grassley's office. Can your team please take a look at this, because this is quite concerning if VBA did tell (b)(6) that he was going to receive IU, so he then leaves his job, and then VBA comes back and says that they were wrong and he is no longer eligible for IU and now he's out of a job as well. Can you please take a look at this and get something back to me as soon as possible?

I know you're busy, but would appreciate your attention to this particular case. Thank you!

Kelsey

From: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 10:21 AM
To: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good Morning, Sir or Ma'am,
Attached is (b)(6) PRF, as well as supporting documents.
Just to clarify, was (b)(6) receiving his Decision Review Officer Decision dated 12/06/2024 in error?
Was the attached email from VBADES to the Veterans VSO confirming that the Veteran was granted P&T and stating that it is not temporary also an error?
Upon receiving this notice in December of 2024, the Veteran quit working.

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Any assistance you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Clayton R. Brown
Stars of Valor Fellow
(b)(6)
(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley
Get The Scoop

From: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 3:02 PM
To: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov>; VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good afternoon, thank you for your inquiry.

A review of (b)(6) last decision showed he was granted temporary 100% from December 8, 2023-March 1, 2024, due to being on short term disability.

The decision included in the notification letter dated December 9, 2024, stated Entitlement to individual unemployability is granted from December 8, 2023 to March 1, 2024 because you are unable to secure or follow a substantial The effective date of this grant is December 08, 2023. Entitlement has been established from the date your last worked, December 08, 2023, terminating, effective the date your short-term disability benefit(s) end, March 01, 2024, as verified by your employer. When a request for entitlement to unemployability is received within one year of the date last worked, the effective date may be set at the earliest factual ascertainable date. (38 CFR 3.400) ly gainful occupation, as a result of your service-connected cervical spine degenerative joint disease, degenerative arthritis, intervertebral disc syndrome, scar(s), anterior neck, scar(s), cranial, bilateral, radiculopathy, bilateral upper extremity(ies). (38 CFR 4.16).

Please Note: Temporary individual unemployability is warranted. This is so because Veteran is temporarily disabled and currently an active employee, albiet not receiving compensation. It follows that rating decision, dated June 11, 2024, erroneously denied entitlement based on being employed. As such, 38 CFR 4.16 authorizes VA to assign an Individual Unemployability (IU) rating, due to a Veteran's temporary inability to follow a substantially gainful occupation. Receipt of temporary disability benefits, whether short- or long-term, and/or receipt of accrued leave benefits does not necessarily

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

warrant a certain decision in IU claims. Rather, the determination of entitlement to IU must be made based on ability or inability to follow a substantially gainful occupation. Currently, the Veteran is an active employee on leave, related to the service connected cervical spine condition, post-surgery. Consideration has been given to the relevance of receipt of temporary disability benefits, which began January 13, 2024, ending March 01, 2024.

Additionally, Veteran is in receipt of accrued leave benefits, sick and vacation, to pay for employment benefit(s), and confirmed by employer, Marshall County, as $164.10, monthly. No other income is confirmed, in this case. However, temporary benefit(s) are established because Veteran's employer confirms Veteran as current employee, and a return to work requirement is imposed, with full duty. Further, the employer, noted, there is no long term light duty available. Extension of benefit(s) or conversion to permanency may be made on a case-by case basis, as here, Veteran may submit information of no longer being employed, or extension of short-term, rollover to long-term disability, for consideration. Based on the foregoing, temporary unemployability is granted.

The 100% evaluation was for a specific period and the notification letter dated December 9, 2024, was in error informing (b)(6) his children were eligible for Dependents Education Assistance (Chapter 34), I apologize for the error.

Upon review of (b)(6) VA file I did uncover (b)(6) received a letter from VA stating he was being paid at the 100% rate the state of Iowa tax purposes. If (b)(6) (b)(6) submitted this letter to NOT pay property taxes, this was in error, and he should review his property taxes to be sure they are in good standing.

(b)(6) has filed a claim for individual unemployability on February 27, 2025, and that claim remains pending development.

Please let me know if you need anything additional. V/r (b)(6)

(b)(6)
Coach
Des Moines Regional Office
210 Walnut
Des Moines IA 50309

From: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 9:19 AM
To: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good Morning,
Thank you for your response. It is understood that (b)(6) was never paid at the 100% Rate and was informed that the rating was permanent, as stated in the notification attached to his PRF.

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Could you provide clarity on this matter?

Respectfully,

Clayton R. Brown
Stars of Valor Fellow
(b)(6)
(b)(6) @grassley.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley
Get The Scoop

From: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL (b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 2:01 PM
To: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6) @grassley.senate.gov>
Cc: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good afternoon,

A review of (b)(6) file indicates the DROC decided his request for a Higher-Level Review on December 6, 2024, with notification provided on December 9, 2024 . The Rating Decision granted temporary entitlement to Individual Unemployability (payable at the 100 percent rate) from December 8, 2023, to March 1, 2024. He is currently entitled to compensation at the 90 percent disability rate.

We are very grateful for the service rendered by (b)(6) on behalf of our Nation, and thank you for your partnership in assisting him. If our office can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to assist you.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)
AVSCM Rating/Post/QRT
Des Moines VA Regional Office
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines IA 50309

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Brown, Clayton (Grassley) <(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 1:25 PM
To: VAVBADES/RO/CONGRESSIONAL <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Inquiry - Senator Grassley

Good Afternoon,

Enclosed please find correspondents from (b)(6) (PR included)
(b)(6) is requesting assistance With receiving his 100% disability and back pay.
(b)(6) is currently only being paid at a 90% disability rating.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be appreciated.
Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Clayton R. Brown
Stars of Valor Fellow
(b)(6)
(b)(6)@grassley.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley
Get The Scoop

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) VBAVACO
Sent: Thu, 10 Apr 2025 16:58:06 +0000
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] (b)(6) E-mail to Senator Fetterman

Will do.

(b)(6)

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:56 PM
To: (b)(6) VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] (b)(6) E-mail to Senator Fetterman
Importance: High

Apparently more has happened since OCR call with (b)(6). Please ensure the case is expedited as quickly as possible.

Mike

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 9:07 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] (b)(6) E-mail to Senator Fetterman

Undersecretary Freuh,

I am forwarding for your review this morning's email to Senator Fetterman's office regarding my husband's VBA remand and current status.

(b)(6)
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@comcast.net>
Date: April 10, 2025 at 8:56:30 AM EDT
To: Kaitlyn Newport <(b)(6)@fetterman.senate.gov>
Subject: Re (b)(6) VA Form 21-438

Kaitlyn,

An update and request.

My husband's VSO called last evening with an update added to my husband's file since the VERA hearing on Monday. While the agent did record adequate and accurate notes

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

addressing the VSM and OS Bars, as well as the 1 year, 11 months, 7 days of foreign service also on the DD-214, the claim has moved from a “Ready for Decision” status back to the national work cue, then back to the RO for additional evidence like a “hot potato.” At this point, I simply want a decision, and if it’s unfavorable, I am prepared to move it forward to the court system.

At this point, what I am requesting assistance with from the Senator is a meeting with someone from the Veterans Affairs committee. I will place my husband in respite and go to Washington and pay all expenses for our VSO to attend with me.

Last week VA Secretary Collins gave an interview on CNN. He spoke of improving the metrics at the VA and improving the status quo of “. . .not helping veterans.” He added the “mission is about the veteran—we’re a service agency.” I want to share this veteran family’s experience with the VA and allow the Veterans Affairs committee to draw their conclusion of our metrics to measure VA performance.

Thank you.

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2025, at 3:39 PM, Newport, Kaitlyn (Fetterman) <(b)(6)@fetterman.senate.gov> wrote:

Hi, (b)(6),

Thank you so much for sending this over. I’m going to speak with my supervisors about your husband’s case on Thursday, and I will report back with further advice or ways we can be of assistance.

Please keep me updated if anything changes by then. Thank you!

Best,
Kaitlyn Newport (she/her)
Constituent Advocate, U.S. Senator John Fetterman
O: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) VBAVACO
Sent: Tue, 15 Apr 2025 16:46:29 +0000
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] (b)(6) -mail to Senator Fetterman

Good afternoon, Mike,

Since the request for an immediate decision needs to come from the Veteran or the VSO, the Client Relations analyst reached out to his VSO, (b)(6)

The analyst was finally able to connect with (b)(6) this morning. They discussed that the pending development is for a new toxic exposure opinion because the previous opinion was not sufficient for rating purposes.

(b)(6) requested that (b)(6) be present at the exam to talk about his exposures with the examiner who will be providing the opinion. The analyst advised that the current opinion does not include an in-person examination and that if we cancel the current request and request an in-person exam that would add additional time to the claim. (b)(6) (b)(6) indicated that he had talked to (b)(6) and they discussed that the Veteran should be interviewed for that opinion.

Therefore, we reached out to the RO to get an in person exam scheduled for (b)(6) (b)(6)

We will continue tracking this one.

(b)(6)
PRE-DECISIONAL

From: (b)(6) VBAVACO
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:58 PM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] (b)(6) E-mail to Senator Fetterman

Will do.

Angela

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:56 PM
To (b)(6) VBAVACO <(b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] (b)(6) E-mail to Senator Fetterman
Importance: High

Apparently more has happened since OCR call with (b)(6) Please ensure the case is expedited as quickly as possible.

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Mike

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 9:07 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL](b)(6) E-mail to Senator Fetterman

Undersecretary Freuh,

I am forwarding for your review this morning's email to Senator Fetterman's office regarding my husband's VBA remand and current status.

(b)(6)
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@comcast.net>
Date: April 10, 2025 at 8:56:30 AM EDT
To: Kaitlyn Newport <(b)(6)@fetterman.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: (b)(6) **VA Form 21-438**

Kaitlyn,

An update and request.

My husband's VSO called last evening with an update added to my husband's file since the VERA hearing on Monday. While the agent did record adequate and accurate notes addressing the VSM and OS Bars, as well as the 1 year, 11 months, 7 days of foreign service also on the DD-214, the claim has moved from a "Ready for Decision" status back to the national work cue, then back to the RO for additional evidence like a "hot potato." At this point, I simply want a decision, and if it's unfavorable, I am prepared to move it forward to the court system.

At this point, what I am requesting assistance with from the Senator is a meeting with someone from the Veterans Affairs committee. I will place my husband in respite and go to Washington and pay all expenses for our VSO to attend with me.

Last week VA Secretary Collins gave an interview on CNN. He spoke of improving the metrics at the VA and improving the status quo of ". . .not helping veterans." He added the "mission is about the veteran—we're a service agency." I want to share this veteran family's experience with the VA and allow the Veterans Affairs committee to draw their conclusion of our metrics to measure VA performance.

Thank you.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2025, at 3:39 PM, Newport, Kaitlyn (Fetterman) <(b)(6)@fetterman.senate.gov> wrote:

Hi, Karen,

Thank you so much for sending this over. I'm going to speak with my supervisors about your husband's case on Thursday, and I will report back with further advice or ways we can be of assistance.

Please keep me updated if anything changes by then. Thank you!

Best,
Kaitlyn Newport (she/her)
Constituent Advocate, U.S. Senator John Fetterman
O (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Sent: Thu, 20 Feb 2025 01:30:14 +0000
To: Bergerson, Chase
Cc: Sarkisian, Halle; Horn, Allyson; (b)(6) Vbavaco; (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Meeting Tomorrow

Chase –

Enjoy your TAP visit – I hope it is productive and useful for you. IN the meantime, prior to the next time we connect, feel free to reach out anytime.

Best regards,
Mike

From: Bergerson, Chase <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 5:51 PM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Sarkisian, Halle <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; Horn, Allyson <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting Tomorrow

Hey Mike,

We are on TAP oversight travel this week so we will not be able to meet our monthly meeting tomorrow. Would love to reschedule to maybe sometime next week, but if not, happy to chat in march.

Thanks!

Chase Bergerson
Staff Director, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12)
(b)(6) | veterans.house.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Fri, 7 Feb 2025 15:39:13 +0000
To: (b)(6), VBAVACO; Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO (b)(6); (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: Johnson, Glenn (SES)
Subject: RE: (b)(6) Privacy Act Request - just flagging

FYI

From: Terrell, Brandye, VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 10:35 AM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Johnson, Glenn (SES) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: (b)(6) Privacy Act Request - just flagging

Good Morning all.

This request is being finalized. VBA is mailing a password protected CD with the requested information to Chairman (b)(6).

-----Original Message-----
From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:50 PM
To: Terrell, Brandye, VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Johnson, Glenn (SES) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: (b)(6) Privacy Act Request - just flagging

FYI -

Chairman (b)(6) just sent a privacy request for his claims file, in his personal capacity, that may or may not have gone through another way. I wanted to get this to our privacy folks, and alert leadership to this request.

Best regards,
Mike

-----Original Message-----
From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:14 PM
To: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] (b)(6) Privacy Act Request - just flagging

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hello Mike, I just wanted to flag that (b)(6) mailed the attached privacy act request today, in his personal capacity. I didn't want it to be lost in the mail, and our fax machine didn't work.

Thank you!
Jenny

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Sent: Tue, 18 Feb 2025 20:57:43 +0000
To: Tang, Jenny; (b)(6)
Cc: Lucero, Alex
Subject: RE: quick question re: special pension for MOH survivors

That's how we roll ☺

From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 3:39 PM
To (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: quick question re: special pension for MOH survivors

Amazing, thank you!!! REALLY appreciate y'all!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 3:38 PM
To: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: quick question re: special pension for MOH survivors

Hi Jenny,

Please see below:

VA Response:

- Number of Veterans currently receiving the MoH pension (38 USC 1562(a)(1)) - **63**
- Number of survivors currently receiving the MoH survivors pension (38 USC 1562(a)(2)) - **36**

Let me know if this works.

(b)(6)

From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 2:56 PM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: quick question re: special pension for MOH survivors

Hello (b)(6) thanks again for running these traps. We've been asked to finalize everything today, so would it be possible to just send us what y'all have today please? Sorry about all this.

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From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:33 AM
To: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: quick question re: special pension for MOH survivors

Hi Jenny,

We have a tentative response! Pending one last thing before I can send on over.

Heidi

From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:14 AM
To (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: quick question re: special pension for MOH survivors

Hi(b)(6)! Just checking in the status of this priority request? Thank you!

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 2:10 PM
To: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: quick question re: special pension for MOH survivors

On it!

From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 2:00 PM
To:(b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: quick question re: special pension for MOH survivors

Hi(b)(6) and Mike! I'm sorry about these questions re: MOH pension. This is another priority ask for us, and y'all have been so gracious already... Could we possibly get the following info ASAP?

How many surviving spouses are currently getting the MoH spouse special pension?

Thank you x a million!

Jenny

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:47 PM
To: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: quick question re: special pension for MOH survivors

Hi Jenny,

Heard you had a nice call with Mike today. Glad it went well. Let me know if there's anything else needed from me or if you just want to connect. I know I'm tracking action to the congressional response you sent my way.

For this particular issue (MOH) please see the below response:

Request:
Real quick question if I may bug you please – after a MOH recipient passes, an eligible survivor gets that same amount of MoH special monthly pension, correct? Someone said it was a one time pension payment to the survivor, but my understanding is that it's actually monthly for the survivor, same as the MoH recipient.

Response:
You are correct – MoH pension is a monthly benefit. The current rate (effective Dec 1, 2024) is $1,712.94 per month. This same amount is paid to the Medal of Honor recipient or their surviving spouse. Reference can be found here: Current Special Benefit Allowances Rates | Veterans Affairs

Thank you,
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 1:20 PM
To: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) VBAVACO <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: quick question re: special pension for MOH survivors

Jenny,

Good afternoon! Thank you for reaching out. Adding (b)(6) who will coordinate with the team to get you a response.

Once again thank you for all that you do to support our Veterans and their survivors.

V/r,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

From: Tang, Jenny <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 4:57 PM
To: (b)(6), VBAVACO (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Lucero, Alex <(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] quick question re: special pension for MOH survivors
Importance: High

Hi (b)(6) Real quick question if I may bug you please – after a MOH recipient passes, an eligible survivor gets that same amount of MoH special monthly pension, correct? Someone said it was a one time pension payment to the survivor, but my understanding is that it's actually monthly for the survivor, same as the MoH recipient.

Thank you for your guidance!!!

Jenny

Jenny J. Tang | Subcommittee Staff Director
Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12)
(b)(6) | veterans.house.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Sent: Thu, 13 Feb 2025 04:58:13 +0000
To: Tang, Jenny; Lucero, Alex; (b)(6); Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO; (b)(6) VBAVACO
Subject: Meeting (RecurringMeeting)/Thread Id: 19:meeting_NmVkYzRlOWYtZDEzNi00ODk4LThhNWEtYWYzMDg0ZTYxNzRj@thread.v2/Communication Id: 1e4e1568-bb82-4638-a37d-b762fcb4ddc1/Tang, Jenny,Lucero, Alex(b)(6).,Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO(b)(6), VB...

Start Time (UTC): 2/12/2025 7:58:44 PM
End Time (UTC): 2/12/2025 8:34:21 PM
Duration: 00:35:37.3023764

[2/12/2025 8:04:17 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@mail.house.gov joined.
[2/12/2025 8:34:19 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@mail.house.gov left.
[2/12/2025 8:00:28 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@mail.house.gov joined.
[2/12/2025 8:34:20 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@mail.house.gov left.
[2/12/2025 7:58:52 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@va.gov joined.
[2/12/2025 8:34:21 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@va.gov left.
[2/12/2025 7:59:32 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@va.gov joined.
[2/12/2025 8:34:21 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@va.gov left.
[2/12/2025 7:58:44 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@va.gov joined.
[2/12/2025 8:34:20 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@va.gov left.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO
Sent: Fri, 21 Mar 2025 04:04:25 +0000
To: (b)(6), VBAVACO;(b)(6); Horn, Allyson; Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO; Sarkisian, Halle; Bergerson, Chase
Subject: Meeting (ScheduledMeeting)/Thread Id: 19:meeting_MjVmODZmNjYtOGNhOC00OTgwLWI1MTktNzhjMGNlOGJhM2I0@thread.v2/Communication Id: eb5170ea-5be7-416f-a460-786711a1af31/(b)(6) VBAVACO,(b)(6),Horn, Allyson,Frueh, Mike J., VBAVACO,Sarkisian...

Start Time (UTC): 3/20/2025 7:16:21 PM
End Time (UTC): 3/20/2025 7:43:29 PM
Duration: 00:27:07.7755345

[3/20/2025 7:17:46 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@va.gov joined.
[3/20/2025 7:18:17 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@va.gov left.
[3/20/2025 7:16:21 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@va.gov joined.
[3/20/2025 7:43:29 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@va.gov left.
[3/20/2025 7:16:23 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@mail.house.gov joined.
[3/20/2025 7:43:27 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@mail.house.gov left.
[3/20/2025 7:19:01 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@va.gov joined.
[3/20/2025 7:43:28 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@va.gov left.
[3/20/2025 7:16:22 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@mail.house.gov joined.
[3/20/2025 7:43:27 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@mail.house.gov left.
[3/20/2025 7:16:23 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@mail.house.gov joined.
[3/20/2025 7:43:27 PM (UTC)] (b)(6)@mail.house.gov left.

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