Hi,

I don't have a lot of energy for dealing with recalcitrant governments anymore, however I thought it was worth doing a short submission on this paper.

What appears to have happened in the Douglass case, was that the government had not been adhering to the letter of the law for decades, and then when challenged, fought the veterans who challenged it to the bitter end. Then once the loss was confirmed, instead of fixing it so that all veterans received the same better outcome, you decided to split hairs and only apply it to veterans within a certain window, meaning that a bunch have been arbitrarily disadvantaged. The disparity in treatment is significant, and in the information age, we all see it immediately. Some are struggling now, whilst others are comfortable despite the current global and national economic neoliberal ███████.

Veterans have seen conditions of service declining whilst in, and since serving. We all have numerous examples of things being stripped away and made worse over time. You continue to ask more from veterans, yet give less to them, and then you pretend to care about damaged veterans and their suicide rates and mental health whilst materially changing nothing to make it better.

If you proceed with this legislation as is, you are confirming to thousands of veterans that our government will argue every losing case, for the benefit of no one. Stop arguing the losing fights, apply the most beneficial interpretation of both the spirit and letter of the law, including the cases you lost, and legislate in a way that benefits all without leaving any behind. Otherwise you are simply confirming that our government is a spiteful and self serving entity that we volunteered out adulthood and livelihoods to, when you didn't deserve it.

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Sent from Mail for Windows