



Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers

January 27, 2026

Dear Congressman Stauber,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers (MACVSO), we strongly oppose **H.R. 3132, the CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025**, which we believe would **enable predatory “claim shark” practices and weaken critical protections for veterans**.

County Veterans Service Officers work directly with veterans and routinely see the damage caused by for-profit, unaccredited claims consultants. These entities often charge excessive fees for poor or misleading advice—services that are already available **free of charge** through VA-accredited representatives. H.R. 3132 would legitimize and expand these harmful practices by undermining the VA’s accreditation and oversight framework.

Our key concerns:

- Allows unaccredited, for-profit actors to charge veterans thousands of dollars for benefits assistance
- Weakens the VA accreditation system designed to ensure ethical, accountable and competent representation
- Increases the risk of fraud, misinformation, and improper claims filings
- Disproportionately harms elderly, disabled, and rural veterans

Minnesota’s CVSOs and congressionally chartered VSOs provide trusted, accredited assistance at no cost to veterans. H.R. 3132 would steer veterans away from this system and toward actors whose financial incentives are misaligned with veterans’ best interests.

We urge you to withdraw your support for **H.R. 3132** and instead work with accredited VSOs, CVSOs, and the VA to strengthen a claims system that protects veterans rather than exposes them to exploitation.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you or your staff and to share the real-world impacts we see across Minnesota.

Respectfully,

Tom Anderson
President
president@macvso.org

John Baker
Executive Director
john.baker@macvso.org