

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL MICHIGAN VETERANS

June 27, 2025

Comrades of Michigan:

I am writing to you to request your help.

I am sure that you have read the VFW warnings about "Claim Sharks" preying on veterans seeking entitled benefits from the Veterans Administration.

Comrades, the fight against these claim predators has come to Michigan. In May 2025 the State Senate passed SB215 which opens the door for these predators to operate in Michigan under the guise of freedom of choice. SB215 has now been referred to the State House Appropriations Committee for their consideration. We expect that SB215 will be scheduled for Committee Hearings soon.

This legislation is a repeat of the failed attempt in the last legislative session of SB 1103 which also passed in the State Senate but failed to survive in the House. You and I need to make sure that SB215 suffers the same failure in this legislature. The members of the State House Appropriations Committee and every member of the House must hear our voices loud and clear: DO NOT FEED THE SHARKS!

In May 2024 the Michigan VFW State Convention delegates adopted a very simple resolution:

"Be it Resolved: That the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars supports state legislation that prohibits anyone other than the claimant veteran themselves or a veteran representative accredited through the VA from filing or assisting in the filing of claims on behalf of any veteran or claimant living in the State of Michigan, and

Be it Further Resolved: That the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars supports state legislation that would require state prosecution of anyone charging any fee for assisting any veteran or claimant residing in the State of Michigan in preparing, filing or the prosecution of any VA claim."

The position of the VFW has not changed! We have not wavered in our opposition to any attempt to circumvent through the passage of State Law the explicit intent of Title 38, US Code of Federal Regulations, Section 14.629(b)(1) which prohibits any party from assisting a veteran in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a Department Veterans Affairs (VA) claim unless they are accredited through VA for such purposes. SB215 would do just that, circumvent Federal Law under the guise of State Law. SB215 would put the State of Michigan in violation of existing Federal Law, and we cannot allow it.

Below is a link to the language of SB215 as it passed the State Senate.

Also below is a list of the members of State House Veterans Affairs and House Appropriations Committees. We encourage you to contact these members if you believe as we do, that SB215 is bad for Michigan and bad for Michigan's veterans. You can send an email direct to them by clicking on their email address and tell them you support the VFW opposition to SB215.

If your State Representative is not a member of these two House Committees, we request that you contact your Representative as well as these Committee members.

Also below is a link through which you can contact your State Representative and let them know that the VFW and you do not support the passage of SB215. We request that they stop SB215 dead in the water and that they DO NOT FEED THE SHARKS.

Thank you for your support on this important matter.

Yours in Comradeship,

Reinold Yahnka, Commander
State of Michigan
Veterans of Foreign Wars

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Michigan House Military and Veterans Appropriations Committee

· Cavitt, Cam (Republican) District-106 CamCavitt@house.mi.gov	Majority Vice Chair
· Maddock, Matt (Republican) District-51 MattMaddock@house.mi.gov	
· Morgan, Jason (Democrat) District-23 JasonMorgan@house.mi.gov	
· Robinson, Ron (Republican) District-58 RonRobinson@house.mi.gov	Chair
· Rogers, Julie (Democrat) District-41 JulieRogers@house.mi.gov	Minority Vice Chair

Michigan House Families and Veterans Committee

· Byrnes, Erin (Democrat) District-15 ErinByrnes@house.mi.gov	
· Fox, Joseph (Republican) District-101 JosephFox@house.mi.gov	
· Johnsen, Gina (Republican) District-78 GinaJohnsen@house.mi.gov	
· Pavlov, Joseph (Republican) District-64 JosephPavlov@house.mi.gov	
· Rheingans, Carrie (Democrat) District-47 CarrieRheingans@house.mi.gov	
· Schmaltz, Kathy (Republican) District-46 KathySchmaltz@house.mi.gov	Chair
· Thompson, Jamie (Republican) District-28 JamieThompson@house.mi.gov	
· Woolford, Jason (Republican) District-50 JasonWoolford@house.mi.gov	
· Wozniak, Douglas (Republican) District-59 DouglasWozniak@house.mi.gov	Majority Vice Chair
· Xiong, Mai (Democrat) District-13 MaiXiong@house.mi.gov	
· Young, Stephanie (Democrat) District-16 StephanieYoung@house.mi.gov	Minority Vice Chair