

PREVENTING CRIMES AGAINST VETERANS ACT

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The Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act will give federal prosecutors the tools they need to punish scam artists who take advantage of vulnerable veterans.



Current law has not kept pace with the growing sophistication of fraud schemes seeking to take advantage of America's veterans. This has left too many veterans, survivors, and families vulnerable to so-called pension poaching scams targeting the supplemental aid and attendance pension benefit.

As our senior populations continue to grow, more and more aging veterans will require assistance with activities of daily living through the aid and attendance benefit. The potential for confusion throughout the application and financial eligibility process offers an opportunity for scammers to take advantage by making empty promises with hidden consequences.

While the Federal Trade Commission and Florida Division of Consumer Services provide public awareness resources to help veterans avoid known scams, there are currently no criminal penalties for charging illegal fees in exchange for benefit assistance services. This leaves law enforcement and consumer protection agencies with limited resources to combat these schemes.

This legislation will provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to fight back against pension poachers and other scammers and protect our veterans' financial security.

Veterans and survivors can contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000 or va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation to learn more about avoiding scams.