

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT**



STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

STATEMENT OF

**ROBERT A. HUNTER
STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**BEFORE THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

**WITH RESPECT TO H.B. No. 5014 AND ITS IMPACT UPON
THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
and MILITARY DEPARTMENT
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012
HARTFORD, CT**

Good afternoon Chairman Harp, Chairman Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. On behalf of the roughly 20,000 men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) and our Auxiliaries I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

We stand in opposition to the proposed rescissions affecting the Veterans Administration and the Military Department.

As our servicemen and women return home to rejoin the civilian ranks as veterans, the need for veterans services is going to rise to address unprecedented incidences of amputations and those suffering post-traumatic stress.

Following four years of cuts to the VA and Military Department's budgets, further cuts to support services will force the VA to take steps backward, and not in the direction our state needs to move to take proper care of those who have defended the freedoms our citizens enjoy.

Even as our veterans pass on, cuts to funds for headstones and to the honor guard again find the state in a position to fall short when seeing its veterans to their honorable place of rest.

We encourage and respectfully request Governor Malloy and the members of the Appropriations Committee to reconsider the proposed rescissions, and to consider the services our state provides to its veterans as sacrosanct, and beyond that, worthy of further funding that the Veterans Administration and Military Department may continue their honorable service.

I would like to express my thanks for being given the honor of providing testimony before this distinguished committee.