



## **Helping to house low income Veterans**

### **HR 385 Housing Assistance for Veterans Act of 2013 BACKGROUND**

Many low income veterans have disabilities that have affected them later in life as a result of circumstances unrelated to their time in the Armed Forces of the United States. Unfortunately, as a result of the status of being non-service connected, they are not eligible for all the benefits of their colleagues who were injured while in the military. Many of our low income veterans are unable to afford necessary home modifications that allow them the independence that they want and deserve.

In order to close the gap and provide relief to low income veterans living with disabilities, **HR 385 Housing Assistance for Veterans Act of 2013 or HAVEN Act**, was passed in 2014.

- HR 385 directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to establish a pilot program to award grants to nonprofit organizations that primarily serve veterans or low-income individuals.
- It requires grants to be used to rehabilitate and modify the primary residence of disabled or low-income veterans (at a limited or no cost to such veterans).
- It also requires a minimum of 50% matching funds by participating organizations.

It is a smart way for our government to maximum financial support to deliver results to a greater number of veterans.

### **REQUEST TO POLICYMAKERS**

**Although it passed in the last Congress, HR 385 has not yet been funded. HR 385 has now received appropriations to make this program work. VetsFirst is working with Congressman Al Green, his staff and Rebuilding Together, an organization dedicated to modifying homes for our veterans.**

**VetsFirst needs your help in getting the word out about this legislation and ensuring the continued funding of programs designed to help low income veterans.**