



Ensuring vehicle safety and quality for Veterans

BACKGROUND

HR 3471 Veterans Mobility Safety Act of 2015

The first of VetsFirst's Core Principles is independence and integration into the community. However, this cannot fully be achieved if a veteran is bound to their home.

HR 3471 Veterans Mobility Safety Act of 2015, introduced by Congresswoman Jackie Walorski, directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure that a disabled veteran provided an automobile gets the chance to make personal selections relating to that automobile. Minimum standards of safety and quality for adaptive equipment shall include:

- that the provider of any modification services be certified by a certification organization or the manufacturer of the adaptive equipment;
- any individual modifying an automobile be certified by a certification organization, the manufacturer, or the state;
- the provider of the automobile or adaptive equipment or of the modifications adhere to specified requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

While the title of HR 3471 indicates its commitment to safety, the name alone does not capture every feature of why this is an important piece of legislation. Another important component to the Veterans Mobility Safety Act is that it ensures both uniformity and quality of work. By ensuring manufacturers meet a level of quality, both the life and the investment of the veteran is guaranteed.

Many veterans do not have the financial wherewithal to modify their vehicles without the assistance of VA so they need to know that the individual who is modifying their vehicle will do it safely and correctly.

REQUEST TO POLICYMAKERS

VetsFirst urges Congress to pass HR 3471. Quality is of utmost importance since this grant is a one time only grant. Without the standard, there is no guarantee for the safety of the veteran.