



May 18, 2026

The Honorable Keith Self
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Self:

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) supports H.R. 6698, the "Board of Veterans' Appeals Annual Report Transparency Act of 2025," and thanks you for introducing this legislation. Requiring the Board of Veterans' Appeals to identify, in its annual report, the specific factors contributing to untimely disposition and remand of appeals is a concrete step toward the transparency goals at the core of FRA's 2026 Legislative Pillar on disability compensation reform.

Sea service veterans appealing rating decisions navigate a process that often feels opaque even to seasoned advocates. Average wait times alone do not tell a veteran where their case sits, why it is taking as long as it is, or what conditions are driving remand back to the regional office. By requiring the Board to surface those drivers in writing each year, this legislation gives Congress, veteran service organizations, and individual claimants the information needed to push for targeted fixes, not just additional resources.

FRA urges passage of H.R. 6698 and is open to technical refinements offered by the appellate advocacy community that would further strengthen the bill's reporting requirements without weakening them. For more information, please contact Theo Lawson, Director of Legislative Programs, at TheoL@fra.org.

Sincerely,

DONNA M. JANSKY
National Executive Director