



GOVERNMENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



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Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs Legislative Testimony

June 22, 2023

Honorable Kenny L. Gittens, - Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, Justice, and Public Safety, other Senators of the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands of the United States, all that are present, listening via radio, or viewing via the Legislature's LEGIT TV, good morning to you. Additional greetings to my comrades in and out of uniform known to you as the Veterans of this beloved territory; Thank You once again for your service to country. Last but not never least, to the staff of the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs to whom I refer to as the "Pillars" of this agency, Ms. Daniel, Mrs. Frederick, Mrs. Gordon, and Ms. Hewitt, thank you for your service to our territory's Veterans.

I am Patrick D. Farrell, your Director of the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs. Please excuse my physical absence as I am currently out of the territory chairing the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs Southeast District Meeting.

Today it is my pleasure to provide testimony on **Bill No. 35-0035**, an Act amending title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 39 section 436 (b), expanding the definition of "disabled veteran" for the purposes of eligibility for a handicapped window decal.

In my understanding of the intent of this bill, this bill will clarify the definition of a disabled Veteran in the Virgin Islands. This new and proposed definition is in line with the definition of a disabled Veteran in accordance with the United Department of Veterans. This bill will also allow a path for the proper issuance of disabled window decals and Veteran license plates with a disabled emblem if necessary. For this reason, I am fully in support of this bill.

**Bill No. 35-0035** will enhance the quality of life for a significant portion of Veterans residing within the Virgin Islands. Thank you to the sponsor of this bill for having the foresight and the will to make this a priority on behalf of the Veterans of the Virgin Islands. We thank you.

Chairman Gittens, distinguished members of the Committee on Homeland Security, Justice, and Public Safety, other Senators of the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands of the United States, the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs respect the important work that you have done and continue to do to enhance the quality of life and well-being of our territory's Veterans and their families. With your help and continued support, we can ensure our Veterans and their needs

continue to be adequately resourced and remain a priority. The challenges we overcome today become the foundation of our promise to serve those who have borne the battle, their families, and their survivors. Our commitment to Veterans of the Virgin Islands and those Veterans who decide to make their home within our shores will remain steadfast. Thank you for allowing me to have my testimony read into the record.