



Florida House of Representatives

Danny Burgess

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Representative Burgess Files First Bill of 2017 Session:

Zephyrhills, FL- State Representative Danny Burgess (R-38) has filed his first bill of the 2017 Legislative Session. House Bill 55, the Alternative Treatment for Veterans Act. This bill authorizes the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs to provide state funding for non-profit and state university organizations in Florida who offer alternative treatments for veterans diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress or Traumatic Brain Injury.

Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-12), whose national COVER Act legislation helped inspire HB 55 had this to say: "I applaud Representative Burgess for his efforts on the state level to support alternative treatment therapies for our nation's heroes," said Bilirakis. "House Bill 55 is a fantastic companion to the COVER Act legislation I wrote in the U.S. Congress that makes sure the VA provides Veterans with easy access to a range of mental health care options, like sports therapy and service dog therapy. H.B. 55, along with the COVER Act, will help ensure the VA finally recognizes that one size does not fit all when it comes to treating Veterans for physical and invisible wounds. "

"As a current servicemember in the United States Army Reserve, I am very proud of this legislation." said Representative Burgess "HB 55 is a groundbreaking piece of legislation that will solidify Florida's reputation as the most veteran-friendly state in the nation. I want to thank Congressman Gus Bilirakis for his federal legislation, the COVER Act, which will ensure that the VA recognizes the importance of alternative treatments. HB 55 is an effort to put Florida in the lead for serving those who served us."

In response to the news of this legislation, Brian Anderson, Retired Green Beret, Founder/CEO of Veterans Alternative in Pasco County, said: "It is so hard to explain the numerous difficulties I faced coming home from war, but it is easy to provide testimony to how alternative therapies, such as Accelerated Resolution Therapy, Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment and service dogs have saved my life. I get to see lives saved through alternative treatments every day at the Veterans Alternative, HB 55 will save an even larger number of veterans state wide, while moving our state into the position of the most Veteran Friendly in the U.S. HB 55 is the perfect gap protection for services that will eventually be funded through the VA and I am truly thankful Rep. Danny Burgess is pushing for earlier access to these needed therapies for the men and women who bear the weight of freedom and democracy for not only the state of Florida, but our entire nation."

For further information please contact Jonathan Till at (813) 780-0667.

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