

Val Hernandez's Testimony:

“My name is Val Hernandez and I am also here representing the American GI Forum Education Foundation

I would like to reiterate the words of colleagues-- we are a small organization that works with a substantial number of people from historically underserved communities.

The California Department of Insurance had good intentions--equity. Equity means giving everyone what they need to be successful. In this circumstance, that means creating more opportunities for communities of color to access affinity group discounts.

However, instead of listening to groups like ours and countless others who are represented here-- who have told the commissioner time and again that these discounts work-- the department has proposed even more restrictive regulations that make it even more difficult to receive this discount.

While the Department claims that veterans groups won't be affected---we know that might only apply to larger, more influential veteran's groups than our own. Seems counterproductive to what they were trying to achieve, doesn't it?

I hope that the Committee will take into consideration our testimony today--please do not take away our access to affinity group discounts.”