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Submitted via <https://www.regulations.gov>

RE: OMB Control No. 2900-0198 – VA Form 10-8678; Comment to Agency Information Collection Activity: Application for Annual Clothing Allowance

To Whom It May Concern:

The City Bar Justice Center (the “Justice Center” or “we”), through its counsel and pro bono partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP (“Kirkland”), submits this Comment in response to the Department of Veterans Affairs’ (the “VA”) invitation for comments to the proposed new version of VA Form 10-8678, which is required for applications to receive an annual clothing allowance (the “Clothing Allowance”), published in the Federal Register on February 3, 2026 (the “Proposed Form”).¹ The statutory authority for the Proposed Form can be found at 38 U.S.C. § 1162 (the “Statute”).

As the nonprofit legal aid affiliate of the New York City Bar Association, the Justice Center increases access to justice by leveraging the pro bono efforts of New York lawyers, law firms, and corporate legal departments. Each year, the Justice Center assists more than 25,000 New Yorkers of limited means through legal assistance and representation, community outreach, and education efforts on a wide range of civil justice matters.

¹ Agency Information Collection Activity: Application for Annual Clothing Allowance, 91 Fed. Reg. 5,037 (Feb. 3, 2026), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/02/03/2026-02202/agency-information-collection-activity-application-for-annual-clothing-allowance>.

Kirkland, a premier U.S. law firm for over a century, is partnering with the Justice Center on pro bono matters. Meaningful pro bono work is a cornerstone of Kirkland’s practice. Kirkland is grateful to the Veteran community and proud to continue working as an advocate for Veteran benefits.

While we are encouraged by the VA’s efforts in offering the Proposed Form, we respectfully submit the following suggestions in the interest of enabling Veterans and representatives to more easily access the Clothing Allowance.

I. The VA Should Clarify the Requirements for Veteran Eligibility Under the Clothing Allowance.

a. The Proposed Form Should Clarify the Filing Requirements for Continued Eligibility.

Pursuant to the language of the existing *Application for annual clothing allowance* (VA Form 10-8678),² applications must “be submitted to the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service at your nearest VA Medical Center on or before August 1st of the benefit year for which you are applying.” The Justice Center believes that such language implies that there is a requirement that the Veteran *must* “re-apply” annually, “on or before August 1st,” to receive the Clothing Allowance in subsequent years. A requirement for annual re-application as a prerequisite to receipt of the Clothing Allowance conflicts with the language of the statutory authorization.³ Pursuant to the Statute:

Payments made to a veteran . . . shall continue on an *automatically recurring* annual basis until the earlier of the following: (1) [t]he date on which the veteran elects to no longer receive such payments . . . (2) [t]he date on which the Secretary determines the veteran is no longer eligible. (*emphasis added*)⁴

Absent including clarifying language in the Proposed Form, Veterans may be inaccurately led to believe that re-application is a prerequisite to the continued receipt of the Clothing Allowance. The Justice Center acknowledges the language of the Statute which grants the Secretary the authority to “review [the] continued eligibility of the Veteran for such allowance.”⁵ Nevertheless, pursuant to the Statute, the nature of the review, and burden associated, is shouldered by the Secretary, rather than the Veteran. More specifically, it is the Secretary’s obligation, through the “periodic review [of] the veteran’s Department records” to find “evidence that the veteran has terminated the wearing or use of such a prosthetic, orthopedic appliance, or medication” that gave rise to the Veterans’ qualification. Furthermore, the statutory language requires the Secretary to provide a previously eligible Veteran notice upon a finding of subsequent ineligibility.⁶ The Justice

² U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *Application for annual clothing allowance* (VA Form 10-8678), <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/VA%20Form%2010-8678.pdf> (the “VA Form”).

³ See 38 U.S.C. § 1162 (authorizing the Secretary to pay a clothing allowance of \$716 to certain veterans suffering from service-connected disabilities).

⁴ *Id.* § 1162(b) (*emphasis added*).

⁵ *Id.* § 1162(c).

⁶ *Id.* § 1162(d)(1) (“If the Secretary determines, as the result of a review of a claim conducted under subsection

Center believes the current “re-application” requirement implied within the language of the VA Form may function as an automatic termination of a Veteran’s eligibility without notice or review, which is inconsistent with the Statute. Additionally, due to the permanent nature of many of the conditions which give rise to eligibility for the Clothing Allowance, the Justice Center suggests that it is appropriate for the Secretary to presume ongoing eligibility, without the necessity of annual reapplication.

Accordingly, the current language of the VA Form, which requires annual re-application, inappropriately places the burden of continued eligibility on the Veteran. Without further clarifying instructions, the VA Form is at odds with language of the Statute, which unambiguously states that payments will be made “on an automatically recurring annual basis”.⁷ The Justice Center encourages the VA to remove all references to re-application prior to a Veteran’s explicit receipt of notice terminating their eligibility, pursuant to the Statute. This clarification should include (i) striking the language contained in the “Acknowledgement” section which *requires* a yearly application for Veterans receiving multiple Allowances per year, and (ii) clearly articulating that re-application is not necessary once a Veteran qualifies for the Clothing Allowance.

b. The VA Should Clarify That Veterans Who Are Permanently Eligible Are Not Required to Re-Apply.

In addition to the suggestions described in **Section I(a)** above, the Justice Center encourages the VA to clarify that Veterans who are determined to be permanently eligible are not required to re-apply for the Clothing Allowance annually once deemed qualified by the VA. The Justice Center believes that the language of the Statute clearly provides continued eligibility if the Secretary finds a Veterans’ situation to be “as likely as not subject to no change.”⁸ In such circumstances, the Statute provides that the Veteran “shall continue to be deemed eligible for receipt of a clothing allowance” until (i) notice of termination or (ii) the discovery of evidence stating otherwise (referred to herein as “Rolling Eligibility”).⁹ Similarly, the Statute mandates the Secretary clearly prescribe the threshold and/or standard required for a Veteran’s eligibility to be considered “as likely as not subject to no change.”¹⁰

However, the VA Form contains no information on the qualifications or standard required for Veterans to be deemed continually eligible. The Justice Center believes the absence of such instruction is inconsistent with the language of the Statute. The Justice Center believes it is unnecessary, inefficient, and unduly burdensome to require annual re-application for Veterans whose medical condition necessitating the use of medication and/or a prosthetic and orthopedic appliances are indefinite. Accordingly, in addition to **Section I** outlined above, the Justice Center encourages the VA to (1) clearly enumerate the standard necessary for a Veteran to qualify for Rolling Eligibility, (2) eliminate all references to annual re-application for Veterans meeting such standard, and (3) clearly outline the automatic renewal process, subject to termination through

(c), that the veteran who submitted such claim no longer meets the requirements specified in subsection (a), the Secretary shall...provide to the veteran notice of such determination”).

⁷ *Id.* § 1162(b).

⁸ *Id.* § 1162(c)(3)(A).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

notice provided by the Secretary.

c. In the Alternative to Rolling Eligibility and Automatic Reenrollment, the VA Should Send Veterans Reapplication Reminders in the Form of Periodic Notices.

In the alternative to Rolling Eligibility and/or automatic reenrollment for Veterans previously found eligible for the Clothing Allowance, the Justice Center encourages the VA to consider periodic reminders for Veterans setting forth important reapplication information. The Justice Center urges the VA to consider notices that clearly outline the (i) requirements, (ii) deadlines, and (iii) any applicable changes to the application process for a Veteran who previously qualified and/or applied for the Clothing Allowance. Pursuant to the Proposed Form, applications *must* be received “on or before August 1st of the benefit year for which you are applying.” As such, a Veteran’s failure to submit the application by such deadline results in the immediate disqualification of the Veteran for the benefit year. As means to avoid the harsh outcome associated with such a fixed deadline, the Justice Center encourages the VA to send periodic reminders of reapplication to Veterans who have previously qualified and/or applied for the Clothing Allowance.

The Justice Center believes such notices should be sent, in writing, to the Veteran’s mailing address listed on their previous Clothing Allowance application. Additionally, the Justice Center believes that Veterans would receive the greatest benefit from the receipt of notices at varying time intervals. As such, the Justice Center believes that application deadline reminders, as specified above, sent 120, 90, 60, and 30 days prior to the application deadline are sufficient to provide a Veteran with adequate notice of reapplication requirements. More specifically, the Justice Center believes Veterans would substantially benefit from the receipt of notices on or around (i) April 1, (ii) May 1, (iii) June 1, and (iv) July 1 of each calendar year. The Justice Center believes that the receipt of multiple notices will increase consistent participation by Veterans year-over-year. To avoid sending notices to Veterans who would prefer not to receive such information, and to ensure the notices are provided in an efficient manner, the Justice Center encourages the VA to add the following language to the Proposed Form, allowing Veterans the opportunity to opt-in or opt-out of the receipt of such reminders:

Please check the applicable box below describing whether you would like to receive periodic reminders sent to the address listed on this form containing important annual reapplication information regarding the annual clothing allowance benefit. *(Reminders will be sent on or around 120, 90, 60, and 30 days prior to the application deadline.)*

- I do want to receive periodic reminders of the annual application deadline along with other important information regarding reapplication for the clothing allowance benefit

- I do not want to receive periodic reminders of the annual application deadline or other important information regarding reapplication for the clothing allowance benefit.

d. The VA Should Clarify the Requirements Necessary to Qualify for the Clothing Allowance.

The Justice Center further recommends that the VA clarify the circumstances sufficient to qualify for the Clothing Allowance. The Proposed Form requires Veterans to certify that the use of (i) a prosthetic or orthopedic *or* (ii) skin medications cause irreparable damage/staining to the clothing or outer garments of the Veteran (each, a “Certification Scenario”). The Justice Center believes that this language has the potential to cause confusion among Veterans and inadvertently limit qualification to Veterans experiencing *only one* of the Certification Scenarios. The Justice Center believes that the VA should consider adding the following language (bolded in red) to the certification included in the Proposed Form:

CERTIFICATION: I hereby apply for the annual clothing allowance benefit authorized under 38 USC §1162. In doing so I certify that because of my service-connected disability or disabilities, I regularly (1) wear or use the prosthetic or orthopedic appliance(s) listed in section 7 which tends to wear out or tear my clothing; (2) use a skin medication(s) listed in section 7 which causes irreparable staining to my outer garments, **or (3) wear or use the prosthetic or orthopedic appliance(s) listed in section 7 which tends to wear out or tear my clothing *and* use a skin medication(s) listed in section 7 which causes irreparable staining to my outer garments.** Note: If I have multiple prostheses, orthopedic appliances, or skin medications as listed in section 7, the combination of these items causes me to replace my outer garments faster than if I used a single item.

II. The VA Should Clarify the Amount Awarded Pursuant to the Clothing Allowance.

The Justice Center further believes that Veterans applying for the Clothing Allowance should be informed of the monetary amount received if deemed eligible. Currently, the VA Form lacks any information depicting the amount received if a Veteran is deemed eligible for the Clothing Allowance. The Justice Center believes that including the amount of the Clothing Allowance would increase Veteran participation in the program. The Statute prescribes a fixed monetary award of \$716 for Veterans qualifying for the Allowance.¹¹ Due to the fixed amount of the monetary award, the Justice Center encourages the VA to clarify the Proposed Form by adding language such as the following in the instructions included therein:

MONETARY AWARD: Following completion of the application, if you are deemed eligible to receive an annual clothing allowance, you will receive a fixed amount of \$716 on account of each qualified clothing allowance.

Additionally, the Justice Center recommends that the award be increased to account for cost-of-living adjustments and inflation. To the best of the Justice Center’s knowledge, the monetary amount was last increased from \$677 to \$716 in June 2009.¹² According to the U.S.

¹¹ See § 1162 (mandating that the Secretary “shall pay a clothing allowance of \$716” to each eligible veteran).

¹² Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-37, § 2, 123 Stat. 1927, 1929 (2009).

Bureau of Labor Statistics, \$716 in June 2009 is equivalent to approximately \$1,079 in January of 2026.¹³ Accordingly, the Justice Center urges the VA to consider an increase in the amount of the Clothing Allowance to accurately reflect the purchase power in 2026. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Justice Center understands the VA is limited pursuant to the authorization prescribed by the Statute.¹⁴ Nevertheless, the Justice Center urges the VA to lobby Congress to either (i) increase the amount of the Clothing Allowance or (ii) grant the VA the independent authority to increase the monetary amount to account for cost of living increases.

III. The VA Should Draft the Proposed Form to be More Consistent with the Language in the Statute.

The Justice Center recommends drafting the Proposed Form to be more consistent with the language set forth in the Statute. The Statute was enacted by Congress to provide the Clothing Allowance to eligible Veterans, but the VA Form curtails such eligibility by utilizing more limiting language than what is set forth in the Statute.

Set forth below are examples of ways in which the language in the VA Form deviates from the language in the Statute in ways that adversely affect Veterans' access to the Clothing Allowance:

a. The VA Should Replace “Staining” with “Damage” in the Content of Skin Medication in the Proposed Form.

Under the Statute, a Veteran is eligible for the Clothing Allowance if their prescribed skin medication “damages” their outergarments.¹⁵ The word “damage”, in such context, can take on several meanings: Tearing, thinning out, staining, fraying, fading, shrinking or ripping, just to name a few examples. However, the VA Form limits the Clothing Allowance eligibility and entitlement in such cases to a scenario where “skin medication must cause irreparable *staining* to your outergarments” (*emphasis added*).¹⁶

Accordingly, the Justice Center believes that the Proposed Form should be drafted to replace the word “staining” with “damage”, so that the language in section “Eligibility / Entitlement for an Annual Clothing Allowance” reads “skin medication must cause irreparable damage to your outergarments”. Similar changes should be made in several places throughout the Proposed Form.

b. The VA Should Remove the Term “Prescribed” in the Context of a Prosthetic or Orthopedic Appliance in the Proposed Form.

Under the Statute, a Veteran is eligible for the Clothing Allowance if he or she wears or uses a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (including a wheelchair) which the Secretary determines tends to wear out or tear the clothing of the Veteran, whether or not that prosthetic or orthopedic

¹³ *CPI Inflation Calculator*, U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm

¹⁴ *See* 38 U.S.C. § 1162.

¹⁵ *Id.* § 1162(a)(2)(B) (2021).

¹⁶ *See* VA Form.

appliance is prescribed to them.¹⁷ The Statute only uses the term “prescribed” in the context of a physician-prescribed skin medication.¹⁸ However, the VA Form limits the Clothing Allowance eligibility and entitlement in such cases to “A Veteran who wears or uses a *prescribed* prosthetic, orthopedic appliance, and/or skin medication” (*emphasis added*).¹⁹

Accordingly, the Justice Center believes that the Proposed Form should be drafted to remove the word “prescribed” as a qualification to prosthetic and orthopedic appliances, so that the language in section “Eligibility / Entitlement for an Annual Clothing Allowance” reads “A Veteran who wears or uses a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (including a wheelchair) and/or who uses a prescribed skin medication ...”.

Similar changes should be made in several places throughout the Proposed Form. For example, Section 9 of the VA Form indicates that a Veteran should insert the month and year on which their appliance or skin medication was issued in connection with their submission of the VA Form.²⁰ Accordingly, such Section 9 should be rewritten so that the Veteran must insert the “Month and Year Appliance *was first worn or used* or Skin Medication *was first prescribed* (MM/YYYY)”.

c. The VA Should Remove Limitations on Types of Clothing and Outergarments in the Proposed Form.

Under the Statute, a Veteran is eligible for the Clothing Allowance if he or she wears or uses a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (including a wheelchair) which the Secretary determines tends to wear out or tear the clothing of the Veteran, without specification as to type of clothing.²¹ Similarly, the Statute provides that a Veteran is eligible for the Clothing Allowance if he or she uses prescribed skin medication that causes irreparable damage to the Veteran’s outergarments, without specification as to type of outergarments.²² However, the VA Form in section “What Types of Clothing Are Included” limits the Clothing Allowance eligibility and entitlement in such cases to “Clothing such as shirts, blouses, pants, skirts, shorts and similar garments Shoes, hats, scarves, underwear, socks, and similar garments are not included.”²³

Accordingly, the Justice Center believes that the Proposed Form should be drafted to remove the section “What Types of Clothing Are Included”, as it limits the types of clothing or outergarments in a way that is not contemplated by the Statute. Similar changes should be made in several places throughout the Proposed Form.

The Justice Center believes that the above changes are consistent with the language in the Statute and will allow more Veterans to access the benefits of the Clothing Allowance, as intended by Congress. For that reason, the Justice Center recommends drafting the Proposed Form to be more consistent with the language set forth in the Statute.

¹⁷ See 38 U.S.C. § 1162(a)(1) (2021).

¹⁸ See VA Form.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ See 38 U.S.C. § 1162(a)(1) (2021).

²² *Id.* § 1162(a)(1) (2021).

²³ See VA Form.

IV. The VA Should Make Several Updates to the Proposed Form to Address Some Ambiguities and Potentially Confusing Language.

The Justice Center recommends making several updates to the Proposed Form to address some ambiguous points and potentially confusing language in the VA Form. The Justice Center believes such changes would enhance Veterans' understanding of the Proposed Form, which would allow more Veterans to access the benefits of the Clothing Allowance.

Following are examples of ways in which the language in the VA Form is ambiguous or potentially confusing in a way that may adversely affect Veterans' access to the Clothing Allowance:

a. The VA Should Update Dates in the Proposed Form.

The VA Form currently provides the following example in its "Instructions" section: "For example: If you are applying for the 2014 benefit, this application should be received on or before August 1, 2014."²⁴ Given it is 2026, the references to "2014" in the VA Form may confuse Veterans, who may think that this is an antiquated form that is no longer relevant. Accordingly, the Justice Center believes that the Proposed Form should be replace references to "2014" with references to "2026".

b. The VA Should Provide More Examples in the Proposed Form.

The VA Form currently requires in Sections 7 and 8 thereof that a Veteran list the types of appliances or names of skin medications and list of service-connected disabilities that give rise to their need for the Clothing Allowance.²⁵ While the VA does provide a few examples "(Artificial leg, metal brace, wheelchair, etc.)" in Section 7 of the VA Form,²⁶ the Justice Center believes the Proposed Form should be further expanded with more examples of types of appliances or names of skin medications and types of service-connected disabilities.

For example, Section 8 of the VA Form should explicitly refer to the fact that "gynecological conditions (such as excessive or irregular bleeding or menstruation)" can be service-connected disabilities. The VA understands that service-connected gynecological conditions exist in women Veterans,²⁷ so reference to such conditions would greatly assist women Veterans to determine their eligibility for the Clothing Allowance. Historically, a majority of women Veterans have indicated that the VA has not met their health care needs in general,²⁸ so any changes to the Proposed Form that have the impact of allowing women Veterans to better seek such care would be an improvement.

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *Gynecological Conditions Disability Benefits Questionnaire*, https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/docs/Gynecological_Conditions.pdf.

²⁸ Wounded Warrior Project, *Women Warriors Initiative Report (2021)* (finding that less than half of women warriors agreed that the VA met their needs (49%)).

Similarly, in Section 11 of the VA Form, the parenthetical should be rewritten as follows to encourage Veterans to list all of their impacted locations, not just the ones prescribed in the form: “(Chest, Back, Buttock, Left or Right Leg, Left or Right Arm, *etc.*)” (*emphasis added*).

By providing more examples, Veterans (and, in particular, women Veterans) will be empowered with more information in making their decision as to whether they believe they are eligible for the Clothing Allowance.

c. The VA Should Provide More Specificity in the Proposed Form.

If the VA does not remove limitations on types of clothing and outergarments in the Proposed Form, as discussed in **Section III(c)** above, the VA should provide more specificity on these items in the Proposed Form. The VA Form currently provides in section “What Types of Clothing Are Included” that “Clothing such as shirts, blouses, pants, skirts, shorts and *similar garments* ... are considered in clothing allowance decisions” (*emphasis added*).²⁹ Similarly, the VA Form indicates in such section that “Shoes, hats, scarves, underwear, socks, and *similar garments* are not included” (*emphasis added*).³⁰ The Justice Center believes the Proposed Form should be further expanded with more specificity as to what does or does not constitute a type of clothing or outergarment that is eligible for the Clothing Allowance.

Similarly, Section 4b of the VA Form indicates that a Veteran should insert their email address in connection with their submission of the VA Form.³¹ However, because it’s possible some Veterans do not have email addresses, and because eligibility for the Clothing Allowance under the Statute is not conditioned on a Veteran having an email address, the Justice Center believes the Proposed Form should clarify that such Section 4b can be filled in with the “Veteran’s Email Address (*if applicable*)” (*emphasis added*). By providing more specificity, Veterans will be empowered with more information in making their decision as to whether they believe they are eligible for the Clothing Allowance.

The Justice Center believes that the above changes would address some ambiguous points and potentially confusing language in the VA Form. As noted above, the Justice Center believes such changes would enhance Veterans’ understanding of the Proposed Form, which would allow more Veterans to access the benefits of the Clothing Allowance.

V. The VA Should Electronically Streamline and Ease Burden on Submission, Notice and Re-Filing.

The Justice Center believes that the VA should streamline the submission options for Veterans who are applying or reapplying for the Clothing Allowance.

a. One Submission Option Regardless of Status.

²⁹ See VA Form.

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Id.*

Currently, the VA Form provides that it is only for individuals who have already previously filed a claim for disability compensation; and that those who have not already filed must follow a different application process, including visiting a Veterans Benefits Administration office.³² The Proposed Form should afford Veterans the opportunity to complete the same form, regardless of prior claim of disability, such that if a Veteran had not previously applied for disability compensation, the completed form could be included within an application for benefits. The Justice Center believes that by eliminating a distinction in application methods, the VA and the Veterans will reach the same conclusions with less steps; in other words, using the same form for everyone regardless of where they are in the disability compensation process. Additionally, the Justice Center believes that the Proposed Form should be clarified regarding if prior determination of disability compensation is a requirement for submission. The Justice Center notes that the statute is silent on this requirement and the Code of Federal Regulations proscribes that a veteran is entitled to a clothing allowance if they have a “service-connected disability, or a disability compensable under 38 U.S.C. 1151 as if it were service connected.”³³

b. Electronic Notices and Applications; Multiple Notices.

Currently, Veterans must submit the VA Form 10-8678 to the VA after a ratings decision has been made, which ratings decision is an entirely independent process. The Justice Center believes that Veterans should be able to submit this form concurrently when applying for benefits, and/or this form should be linked or provided to Veterans when a rating decision has been made. Consolidating the application process as much as possible promotes efficiency for both the Veterans and the VA. If the VA were to promote electronic submissions, it would allow for such consolidation easily.

Further, the Statute contemplates that the VA may make a finding of ineligibility of a Veteran and will provide notice to them.³⁴ However, the Statute only prescribes that the notice shall be written, and does not specify how it will be delivered, or offer any timing constraints.³⁵ The Proposed Form should clearly state both when and how notices will be delivered. Veterans should be permitted to opt-in for paperless electronic notices and therefor know at the earliest opportunity in the event any notice is to be sent regarding their claim for benefits. Mail should continue to be sent as a primary delivery method unless a Veteran explicitly opts out of receiving mail. There is low administrative burden on the VA to send a second copy of any mailed notice via email and beginning that practice now positions the VA for a gentle transition with future generations who may opt for paperless only notice methods.

Additionally, the Justice Center believes that the Proposed Form should be clarified to state that a Veteran may receive assistance in completing the form by a third party if they are impeded by their disability. The Justice Center notes that both the VA Form, Statute and Code of Federal Regulations³⁶ are silent on this issue, but it is logical to permit and should be explicit to ease

³² *Id.*

³³ *See* 38 CFR § 3.810(a) (2026)

³⁴ *See* 38 U.S.C. § 1162(d) (2021)

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ *See generally:* VA Form; 38 U.S.C. § 1162 (2021); 38 CFR § 3.810 (2026).

application burden for disabled Veterans.

c. Elimination or Automation of the Form for Eligible Recipients.

The Justice Center believes that the Proposed Form should be saved electronically and re-accessible following a Veteran's submission, so that to the extent any Veteran need re-apply in the future, the form is able to be pre-populated based on their prior submission. Notwithstanding the points raised elsewhere in this letter, the VA Form currently indicates that there are circumstances in which a Veteran would need to apply annually.³⁷ Should that practice continue, the Justice Center believes that by saving historical submissions electronically and allowing Veterans to re-submit the Proposed Form based on and pre-populated by those prior submissions, there will be an enormous and obvious efficiency gain for both the VA and for Veterans. Veterans who are already approved should be able to "click-through" annual filings as the VA has all of their disability, medical and compensation information already, including the contents of the Proposed Form, such that it is inefficient for everyone if a new form must be completed from scratch annually.

³⁷ See VA Form.

In conclusion, while the Justice Center and Kirkland recognize and applaud the VA's intentions and efforts behind the Proposed Form, our experience providing legal services to Veterans and their survivors leads us to believe that further modification is necessary. We respectfully urge the VA to consider our suggestions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our feedback on this important matter as we continue to pursue our shared goal of best serving our nation's Veterans.

Sincerely,

By: 

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