

Representative Radewagen Questions for the Record
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
“Correcting VA’s Violations of Veterans’ Due Process and Second Amendment Rights”
Thursday, January 23, 2025
1:15 p.m. – 360 Cannon HOB

1. Dr. Reynolds, after VA has already reported a veteran with posttraumatic stress to the NICS list, do you think they may be overwhelmed by how they must prove that they are **not** dangerous to get taken off the NICS list?

“It is a tremendous burden on any Veteran to prove their innocence. I believe the Veterans Administration should be directed to reevaluate each NICS referral. Veterans are not "criminals" because of the determination of an administrative process in the VA. We must return to the presumption of innocence for the Veterans.” (Dr. Wayne Reynolds, Vietnam Veterans of America)

2. Mr. McCormick, can you elaborate on how VA stigmatizes mental illness when VA assumes, without evidence, that a veteran is dangerous just because they need help managing their finances due to a disability?

“Thank you, Representative Radewagen for this opportunity to elaborate on this matter. To sum it up the VA policy only reinforces the harmful notion that disability challenges and struggles with financial affairs equate to a lack of stability, trust, or risk to others. This has discouraged veterans from seeking the help they need, fearing judgment or repercussions, and hinder their recovery and reintegration into society. Additionally, veterans face an increasing risk of losing confidence and trust in the Veterans Administration because of issues like this that classify us as untrustworthy and treating us like criminals by placing us on the same list as murderers, rapist, terrorist, and other criminals as the very name of the NICS implies.” (Mr. James McCormick, Military Order of the Purple Heart)