

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Veteran/Beneficiary Claim for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses; OMB No. 0798

Document: VA-2024-VACO-0001-0093
Comment on ICR-Veteran/Beneficiary Claim for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses; Anonymous

Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

General Comment

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment. I am a Master's student at the University of Virginia Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. I am writing in support of revising the review process for veteran beneficiary claims, particularly concerning PFAS. With recent data being published finding levels of organic fluorine ranging from 11 parts per million to 328 ppm, the DVA must prepare accordingly.

As a current Master's student in Leadership and Public Policy, I am dedicated to supporting veterans through comprehensive policy and government action. I strongly believe that PFAS, present in bandages issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs, will be a significant issue for veterans. A study found that 10 out of 16 bandages with black and brown skin tones contained PFAS, with "forever chemicals" present in 26 out of 40 bandages tested. The risk of exposure to PFAS through the skin is not entirely clear, but previous lab research by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health suggests that skin exposure to PFAS poses similar health risks as ingesting the chemicals via food or water. By making these revisions to the review process, the Department of Veterans Affairs can best handle the future influx of these cases.