

Injured Vets Not Receiving Bonuses; Rep. Altmire Wants Change

WTAE

October 22,
2007

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Former Marine Spc. Robert Kaminski lost his leg last October when his convoy ran over an IED. He also suffered a collapsed lung and brain trauma.

Kaminski and other wounded enlistees were told they're not entitled to their full enlistment bonus because they were injured before completing their full enlistment term.

"They've dodged bullets," said Kaminski. "They've lost limbs. They lost their eyes. They lost their hearing." "People are

outraged that we're denying injured service men and woman full bonuses that they were entitled to," said Altmire. "This is a promise we made to them and they defended our country, and they took a serious injury as a result. And to deny them their bonus in that case is outrageous."

Altmire introduced the Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act last week. It requires that all armed service members receive full compensation after injured in combat.

"And I really think we have a chance to move this thing past the house floor and sign it into law," said Altmire.

Altmire's legislation has teeth and is gaining support rapidly. Kaminski said he hails the effort and fight.

"I definitely think this will pass," he said. "You'd have to have a cold heart not to let this pass."

Altmire said his legislation is endorsed by the Military Coalition, representing 5.5 million veterans and their families. The Iraq and Afghanistan veterans of America have also signed on with their support.

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