



(January 14, 2016)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing: SES Bill Would Make Execs Guilty Until Proven Innocent**

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A bill purporting to reform the Senior Executive Service cleared a House Oversight Committee markup session on Jan. 12, and was quickly met with disdain from a federal executive association.

[H.R. 4358](#), the Senior Executive Service Accountability Act, includes extensive reforms for both accountability and new procedures for the removal of senior executives.

The bill was roundly lambasted by the Senior Executive Association, who took issue with the legislation's efforts to expedite the removal SES members for misconduct.

"In an effort to tout their dedication to 'accountability,' majority leaders in the Congress continue to push forward with the singular focus of carving out paths to summarily terminate career senior executives," SEA interim president Tim Dirks said in a statement. "As members scramble to gain political advantage and attach their names to would-be solutions, they fail to address the real issues and in fact create more serious problems by sending a dangerous and discouraging message that those who enter or consider entering the SES will be met with a 'guilty until proven innocent' style of justice."

The American Federation of Government Employees also denounced the legislation, along with H.R. 3023, which would extend probationary periods on new federal hires.