

Mr. ROYBAL. It is my understanding that there is an award at the present time. I don't know whether it is 30-percent disability or not.

Mr. FERRINO. It is 30 percent.

Mr. ROYBAL. You now advocate we continue with the 30 percent?

Mr. ROSSIGNUOLO. Plus the statutory award. Similar to that given to an amputee veteran where there is loss of a limb.

Mr. ROYBAL. That is allowed at the present time by statute.

Mr. ROSSIGNUOLO. Excepting for the loss of a kidney.

Mr. ROYBAL. You would want to establish then a 30-percent disability compensation plus what is already in existence?

Mr. ROSSIGNUOLO. That is right.

Mr. BROWN of California. The statutory award is in addition to the degree of disability, Mr. Roybal.

Mr. ROYBAL. I am trying to determine whether or not he wants 30 percent in addition.

Mr. FERRINO. Yes.

Mr. ROYBAL. In the field of the kidney transplants, the veteran, I think, has a tremendous problem in the use of dialysis equipment. It is my understanding there is not enough equipment throughout the Nation and thousands of people die because such equipment is not available.

If I may, I would like to be a little obvious. The bill that I have presented I think would take care of it. It is a very important bill in my opinion, H.R. 8. I would like to call it to your attention, hoping that you will review it and give me your comments on it whenever it is feasible, and I hope you can see fit to endorse it. It will help tremendously.

Mr. FERRINO. We will certainly review it.

Mr. DORN. Mr. Pucinski.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I want to welcome the commander to today's hearing.

My district has a long history of close association with the AMVETS and in the room today are a number of people from Chicago who strongly and ardently support AMVETS and, of course, the commander himself is one of the great people in this whole program of helping veterans.

It is always a pleasure to have Amvets come before this committee. Over the years your organization has developed a tradition of bringing to Congress progressive and realistic programs. I have the highest regard for your legislative process. Obviously you people are concerned about the problems of veterans. I think you have made a great contribution. This is your 25th anniversary and I think in review we can see the huge impact you have had on meaningful legislation to help veterans.

This country takes better care of its veterans, I believe, than any country in the world and it is only because of people like yourself, commander, so I am very proud to be able to welcome you here today and congratulate you on this really fine document that you have presented to the committee.

I have several questions to ask of you. You talk about cemetery facilities and burial facilities. This is one of the great problems that we have and it is going to get worse before it gets better. Obviously, as the population of veterans grows in the country, I think this is one of the most pressing problems of this committee and perhaps we