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NEWS RELEASE

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SWAN legal advisor speaks to Congressional representatives on backlog of VA claims

WASHINGTON, DC -- A representative of the Service Women's Action Network will testify at a Congressional hearing for veteran's affairs, today at 2 p.m. in the Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Rachel Natelson, SWAN legal advisor and Head of Legal Services, will present her findings to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs. The oversight hearing is on "Addressing the Backlog: Can VA manage 1 million claims?"

Natelson will present her experiences surrounding the VA's disability claims processing system and provide suggestions to improve the program. She is SWAN's resident expert on the claims system, and has helped numerous veterans, both male and female, appeal claims that were denied by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Natelson plans to address how the VBA unfairly discriminates against veterans suffering from psychological conditions resulting from combat or Military Sexual trauma, to include Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and major depression. She will also address the unreasonable burden of proof placed by the VBA upon male and female veterans who were harassed, assaulted or raped while in the service.

For additional information, or to show your support, visit www.servicewomen.org.