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Senate Testimony in support of genitourinary injured soldiers

In mid-June, I was asked by Sen. Patty Murray's staff to testify on behalf of her Bill, S. 3313, the Women Veterans and Other Health Care Improvements Act of 2012. Among other provisions, the Bill seeks to establish coverage, in the VA system, for advanced reproductive treatment for soldiers who have suffered infertility-impairing injuries. I was privileged to be able to advocate on behalf of these soldiers, a unique class of urology patients, and both my written testimony and the video of the hearing can be found at www.veterans.senate.gov.

The fertility injury treatment provisions of the Bill are a very small, VA-limited element of our more comprehensive Urotrauma Bill, HR 1612. Our Bill has been reintroduced this year in the House with the sponsorship of Congressman Brett Guthrie and as of this writing 25 cosponsors in the House. I took the opportunity in both my written and oral testimony to highlight HR 1612 and AUA's stewardship of the Bill to get it on the radar screens of the 15 members of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and their staff.

Going forward, we will continue our HR 1612 advocacy effort in both the House and Senate under the advice and leadership of the Legislative Affairs Committee and Health Policy Council and the considerable efforts of Sandie Preiss, Kristine Tuinstra, and other dedicated members of the Government Relations and Advocacy staff.

