

I'm voting against I-185 for many reasons but one reason is because it's bad for Veterans and bad for Montana. Almost every special interest group tries to use Veterans as pawns for their cause and to tug at your heart strings saying their bills are good for Veterans. Don't fall for a sad picture on a mailer or in an ad, chances are the picture is of an actor and not a Veteran.

The photo below is from a pro 185 flyer I received in the mail. NO Veteran would wear a uniform like that with a beard like that. I thought it looked odd so I did a quick web search and found the original photo as well as many others with the same actors in them including photo number two. In that photo you will see he the portrayed disabled Veteran is healed but his wife is now a Veteran in a wheelchair. These organizations can't even find a real disabled veteran whom they can use to back their cause in their misleading ad campaign. Its all fakery just like I-185.

If an individual person claims to be a Veteran, disabled or not, for monetary gain, its called Stolen Valor. When AARP and the Montana Hospital Association do it, I guess its just called advertising? Don't forget that the hospitals supporting this are the same hospitals who turned thousands of Veterans in to collection agencies, destroying their credit, for failure to pay for services the VA (government) was supposed to pay for. The hospitals would not wait for the slow paying government, they went after the Veterans instead. These hospitals also operate as non-profits and do not pay taxes. Don't be fooled, hospitals don't give a spit about Veterans, they are in it for profit. I-185 is a poorly written bill, even the ballot language is bad, that would end up costing every Montana taxpayer and the state government millions more than what they are telling you. Everyone, not just smokers will end up paying for this, well, everyone EXCEPT AARP and the hospitals. – George Blackard

