2027 Critical Policy Goals & Legislative Update

November 5, 2026

Critical Policy Goals for 2027

1. **Protect earned benefits from PAYGO offsets to Veterans Benefits**
   NAOMI
2. **Improve access to benefits and protect veterans from exploitation**
   SHAMALA
3. **Ensure comprehensive care for toxic-exposed veterans**
   SHAMALA
4. **Modernize care and benefits for women veterans**
   NAOMI
5. **Expand access to wellness and alternative mental-health options**
   KEVIN
6. **Strengthen long-term care, caregiver support and services for aging and severely disabled veterans**
   KEVIN

Survivor and Concurrent-Receipt Reforms Must Return in 2027

- Problem — Survivor and concurrent receipt gaps remain unresolved
- Proof — DIC is about 41% versus a 55% federal benchmark; 50,000+ combat-injured retirees still face the offset

2027 implication — reintroduce survivor and concurrent receipt reforms

Claims Reform Must Reduce Rework and Protect Veterans

- Problem — Complex notices, forms and inconsistent decisions create preventable rework
- Proof — Quality control should catch errors before they become appeals

2027 implication — simplify access, ensure fair automation and expand accredited help

Toxic-Exposure Presumptions Still Take Decades

- Problem — The process lacks firm timelines, transparency and accountability
- Proof — Average exposure-to-presumption wait: 34.1 years; multiple cohorts remain unresolved

2027 implication — establish timely, evidence-based presumptions with veteran participation

Women Veterans and Wellness Need Distinct Care Pathways

Modernize Care and Benefits for Women Veterans

Women Veterans

Problem — Distinct risks and barriers persist for women veterans.

Proof — Women veterans cannot access all needed care through VA; care must be gender-tailored, trauma-informed and measured by outcomes.

2027 implication — Close gaps in comprehensive VA care by expanding gender-specific services, improving coordination and measuring access and outcomes.

Expand Access to Wellness Pathways and Alternative Mental Health Options

Wellness Pathways

Problem — Veteran suicide remains above the general-population rate, and veterans need access to care before crisis.

Proof — Prevention, peer support, Whole Health and evidence-informed options provide pathways beyond traditional mental-health treatment.

2027 implication — Expand access before crisis to evidence-informed alternative care options alongside existing mental health care.

CPG 6 Strengthens the Full Continuum of Care

- Problem — Caregiver, assisted-living and home-based supports remain essential
- Proof — Aging and severely disabled veterans need a stable continuum of care

2027 implication — Strengthen caregiver support, home-based care, assisted living and long-term services

All Six CPGs Depend on VA Capacity

- Problem — Aging facilities and capacity constraints strain more than 1,750 access points
- Proof — Workforce, IT and facilities investments must move together

2027 implication — Predictable funding and modern infrastructure enable all six CPGs

Jan. 3 Resets Bill Numbers—Not DAV's Mandate

- Jan. 3: the 119th Congress ends and unfinished bills expire
- The 120th Congress begins; reintroduction may bring new numbers or revised language
- Committees, calendars, appropriations and budget rules reset the path forward
- DAV's 2026–2027 resolutions remain the mandate; six CPGs set the opening focus
- Until reintroduction, old bill numbers remain reference points

Seven First-Session Wins Turned Advocacy into Results

- P.L. 119-42—S. 2392 delivers a 2.8% COLA for disability compensation and survivors
- P.L. 119-31—H.R. 1815 helps VA borrowers avoid foreclosure through partial-claim relief
- P.L. 119-56—H.R. 1912/S. 892 strengthens repayment when fiduciaries misuse benefits
- P.L. 119-43—H.R. 695 raises Medal of Honor pensions and adds survivor support
- P.L. 119-32—S. 201 orders a study of cancer among military aircrews
- P.L. 119-60—S. 1071 strengthens transition assistance and exposure records
- P.L. 119-54—H.R. 970 requires regular review of maximum SGLI and VGLI coverage

Four More Wins Advanced Benefits, Housing and Care

- P.L. 119-70—H.R. 224 keeps VA disability compensation out of housing-income tests
- P.L. 119-72—H.R. 4446 protects continuity in VR&E rehabilitation plans
- P.L. 119-97—S. 2393 authorizes major St. Louis VA medical facility construction
- P.L. 119-101—H.R. 6644 expands housing access for renters and homeowners

Bottom line: member resolutions and DAV CAN advocacy produced 11 tangible wins

DAV Enters 2027 with a Durable Mandate and Sharper Focus

01

Resolutions remain the mandate

All 311 adopted resolutions continue to authorize DAV policy.

02

Six CPGs focus the work

Earned benefits, access, toxic exposure, women veterans, wellness and long-term care.

03

Congress resets the vehicles—not the mission

Bills, committees and budget rules change the path, not DAV's purpose.

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