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Key Legislative Priorities for 2015

In 2015, following a year of scandal at VA over long waiting times for veterans to access VA medical care, DAV will focus special attention on the following legislative and policy goals. Working together with our VSO partners, and relying upon the strength of our grassroots members and supporters, DAV will work aggressively and proactively to advance these key legislative priorities over the next year, while continuing to look for opportunities to promote all DAV legislative and policy goals.

➤ **Strengthen, Reform and Expand Access to VA Health Care for All Eligible Veterans**

- Work with Congress and VA to ensure sufficient funding for VA health care programs in the FY 2016 appropriation and the FY 2017 advance appropriation bills.
- Develop and promote responsible VA health care reform policies that will strengthen and expand access to VA health care for all veterans eligible for care.
- Develop and build support for a comprehensive long-term plan to address VA's aging health care infrastructure needs, including VA research laboratories and related facilities.
- Expand caregiver services and support to meet the needs of veterans' caregivers from all eras.
- Improve timely access to mental health care and counseling services, with particular focus on newer veterans in transition.
- Strengthen and expand women veterans health care services and transition programs.
- Develop a comprehensive plan reforming VA long-term care services and supports.

➤ **Improve the Delivery of Benefits to Veterans, Dependents and Survivors**

- Work with VA and Congress to complete the ongoing reform of VA's benefits claims processing system, with the focus on quality, accuracy, accountability and timeliness.
- Develop and enact legislation to address the reform of the VA appeals process, including a new Fully Developed Appeals pilot program.
- Work with Congress to eliminate inequitable policies that prohibit the concurrent receipt of VA disability compensation and military retired pay and that require Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and military Survivor Benefit Plan payments to be offset.

➤ **Expand and Improve Employment and Economic Opportunities for Veterans**

- Work with Congress to develop and enact legislation to transfer veterans employment programs from the Department of Labor to VA as part of a new Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration, that also includes VR&E, education and business programs.
- Strengthen veterans' vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.
- Improve delivery of transition services to all separating service members.

For further information about all of DAV's legislative resolutions and policy goals, please refer to DAV's website at: www.dav.org/voters