Please Keep Your Microphone Muted Until the Q&A Sections
COVID-19 Legislative Updates

DAV National Legislative Team
April 15, 2020
WELCOME!

Joy Ilem
National Legislative Director

- Opening Remarks
- Engagement with Congress & VA during COVID-19 crisis
Joy Ilem, National Legislative Director

Public Law 116-127, 2\textsuperscript{nd} COVID-19 response bill was enacted on March 18th

✓ VA was provided $60 million to help cover Coronavirus testing and treatment costs.
Joy Ilem, National Legislative Director

✓ Public Law 116-136, 3\textsuperscript{rd} COVID-19 response bill (CARES Act) was enacted on March 27th

Nearly $20 billion for VA.
Staff will discuss individual provisions
Three COVID-19 Legislative Responses:


Adrian Atizado
Deputy National Legislative Director
Adrian Atizado, Deputy National Legislative Director

2. P.L. 116-127, Families First Coronavirus Response Act, March 18th

- VA Appropriations: $60 million
- General VA Provision: No COVID-19 testing copayments
Adrian Atizado, Deputy National Legislative Director

3. P.L. 116-136, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or the CARES Act:

- VA Appropriations: $19.57 Billion
- General VA Provision: 14 provisions
3. CARES Act for VA COVID-19 response:

- $15.1 billion for VA medical care
- $2.1 billion for VA community care
Adrian Atizado, Deputy National Legislative Director

3. CARES Act for VA COVID-19 response:

✓ For Veteran Directed Care program, temporarily waives in-person home visit to enroll and permits telephone/telehealth visits as an alternative.
Adrian Atizado, Deputy National Legislative Director

3. CARES Act for VA COVID-19 response:

- Requires VA to provide personal protective equipment to VA and community-based workers that provide care to veterans in their home.
Adrian Atizado, Deputy National Legislative Director

3. CARES Act for VA COVID-19 response:

✓ Ensures the 2020 Economic Impact Payments veterans receive under the CARES Act shall not be treated as income to avoid a loss or reduction of any VA benefit.
3. CARES Act for VA COVID-19 response:

☑ Increases flexibility for vulnerable veterans with limb loss, allowing them to seek prosthetic assistance at community providers instead of VA.
Adrian Atizado, Deputy National Legislative Director

VA Community Care Program Update:
✓ Changes to access standards

Electronic Health Record Modernization Update:
✓ Scheduling Package delayed
✓ EHR timeline uncertain
Adrian Atizado, Deputy National Legislative Director

Status of 4th COVID-19 Package:

✓ Discussions are ongoing
✓ Timeline uncertain
Questions for Adrian
VHA and COVID-19

Joy Ilem
National Legislative Director

✓ VA’s 4th Mission

✓ Veterans a Priority

✓ Non-Urgent elective procedures cancelled
Joy Ilem, National Legislative Director
VHA & CVOID-19

✓ New Staff Hires
✓ Expanded Capacity
✓ Testing
✓ Telehealth
✓ VA Mail Order Pharmacy
Joy Ilem, National Legislative Director

✔ PREVENTS
Current Roll-out and Updates
Questions for Joy
CARES Act/3rd COVID-19 Package

- $150 million to assist State Veterans Homes in their response to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

- Updates

Peter Dickinson
Senior Executive Advisor
Peter Dickinson, Senior Executive Advisor

- Economic Impact Payments to veterans and survivors with no income and no tax returns.
  - April 2nd Joint VSO Letter to Secs VA and Treasury

www.irs.gov/coronavirus
Economic Impact Payments will NOT be counted as income for those receiving NSC Pension, Survivors Pension

www.irs.gov/coronavirus
Questions for Peter
CARES Act/3rd COVID-19 Package

✔️ $13 million to ensure VA can provide earned benefits by enhancing telework capabilities for the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Shane Liermann
Deputy National Legislative Director for Benefits
COVID-19 Impact on Claims and Benefits

Debt Management Center

- DMC suspend debt collections on NEW debts
- Request waiver of debt collections for existing debts-COVID-19 related
Shane Liermann, Deputy for Benefits

Debt Management Center

1-800-827-0648
Shane Liermann, Deputy for Benefits

COVID-19 Impact on Claims and Benefits

✓ Date of Receipt Issues
  • VA will accept “post mark” as date of receipt
  • Federal Register will publish rule change
COVID-19 Impact on Claims and Benefits

✓ Time Sensitive forms/claims
  • After time limit has expired, must file form with a separate note that this is late due to COVID-19 and requesting waiver
Shane Liermann, Deputy for Benefits

COVID-19 Impact on Claims and Benefits

✅ VA C&P Exams

- Cancelling all in-person exams—will not rate cases based on veterans not appearing to exams during this time
- Contract Exam Office-Possible Tele-exams with vendors
COVID-19 Impact on Claims and Benefits

✓ Hearings
  • Cancelled Board of Veterans Appeals
    • Increase Tele-hearings
  • DROs—tele-hearings
    • Informal or Formal
Questions for Shane
Education Legislation

✓ S. 3503, Stand alone legislation that was introduced on March 16\textsuperscript{th} and became Public-Law 116-128 on March 21\textsuperscript{st}.

Jeremy Villanueva
Assistant National Legislative Director
Jeremy Villanueva, Assistant Legislative Director

S.3503

✓ This bill authorizes the VA to keep the housing allowance the same for those who were forced to start distance learning due to the COVID pandemic.

✓ Good through December 21, 2020
Jeremy Villanueva, Assistant Legislative Director
HR 6322, the “Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020”

✓ Extends the timelines for those who are utilizing VA education benefits and are currently enrolled in courses through the Coronavirus pandemic
Jeremy Villanueva, Assistant Legislative Director
HR 6322, the “Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020”

✓ Passed by the House March 31
✓ Recently failed UC in the Senate
Paycheck Protection Program

• Makes available low interest loans to small businesses
Paycheck Protection Program

- Loan can be forgiven for expenses used to pay for mortgage payments, payroll costs, etc. as long as the business does not change their payroll before June 30, 2020.
Jeremy Villanueva, Assistant Legislative Director

CARES Act/3rd COVID-19 Package

✓ Paycheck Protection Program
  • Some problems during roll out

✓ 4th COVID-19 Package
  • Looking to have a $250 billion plus up for Payroll Protection program.
Questions for Jeremy
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THANK YOU