



2024 Critical Policy Goals

118th Congress, 2nd Session

1. **Correct inequities for veterans receiving compensation benefits and provide parity in benefits for survivors**

DAV will fight for concurrent receipt of earned compensation and military payments without offsets and parity with other federal programs for survivors receiving Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits.

2. **Ensure the faithful implementation of the PACT Act and address gaps in toxic-exposure benefits**

Thousands of disability claims have been submitted to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) following the passage of the PACT Act (P. L. 117-168), but far too many veterans who have suffered from toxic and environmental exposures still do not qualify for benefits. Our nation must ensure these veterans receive the care and benefits they have rightfully earned.

3. **Establish equity in VA care, services and benefits for women, LGBTQ+ and minority veterans**

The VA must ensure these veterans have access to benefits and timely, high-quality and specialized health care services to the same extent as their veteran peers. The VA must provide a safe, welcoming and harassment-free environment at all its health care facilities.

4. **Provide a full spectrum of long-term care options for service-disabled and aging veterans**

The VA must have a comprehensive geriatric and extended care program that includes a broad range of care options and supportive services—from home-based primary care to long-term institutional care to assist a rapidly aging veteran population, particularly veterans with service-connected conditions.

5. **Bolster mental health resources to ensure reduction of veteran suicides**

Despite increased resources for VA mental health services and targeted efforts, rates of suicide among veterans have increased. By improving lethal means safety efforts, enhancing care for veterans in crisis and requiring training for community partners, the VA can help to reduce suicide for at-risk veterans and ensure all veterans have timely access to needed mental health services.

6. **Expand the VA's capacity to deliver timely, high-quality care to veterans**

The VA must remain the primary provider and coordinator of care to ensure the best health outcomes for veterans, particularly veterans with service-connected conditions who rely on the VA for all or most of their care. This will require new investments to hire and retain clinical staff, rebuilding health care infrastructure and modernization of information technology systems.