



Commanders and Adjutants Orientation



Legislative Briefing

June 26, 2023

DAV National Headquarters

Erlanger, Kentucky

Legislative Update

- First Session of 118th Congress
- 13 New Members on HVAC
- Congressional activity
- August Recess



118th Congress

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee



Chairman
Jon Tester (D-MT)

Ranking Member
Jerry Moran (R-KS)



House Veterans' Affairs Committee



Chairman
Mike Bost (R-IL)

Ranking Member
Mark Takano (D-CA)



118th Congress (First Session)

SENATE VETERANS' COMMITTEE

Democrats (10)

- **Jon Tester (MT)**
Chairman
- Dick Blumenthal (CT)
- Sherrod Brown (OH)
- Maggie Hassan (NH)
- Mazie Hirono (HI)
- Joe Manchin (WV)
- Patty Murray (WA)
- Kyrsten Sinema (AZ)
- Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
- Angus King (ME)

Republicans (9)

- **Jerry Moran (KS)**
Ranking Member
- Marsha Blackburn (TN)
- John Boozman (AR)
- Bill Cassidy (LA)
- Kevin Cramer (ND)
- Mike Rounds (SD)
- Dan Sullivan (AK)
- Thom Tillis (NC)
- Tommy Tuberville (AL)

118th Congress (First Session)

HOUSE VETERANS' COMMITTEE

Republicans (14)

- **Mike Bost (IL)**
Chairman
- Jack Bergman (MI)
- Nancy Mace (SC)
- Amata Radewagen (AS)
- Matt Rosendale (MT)
- Derrick Van Orden (WI)
- Mariannette MillerMeeks (IA)
- Eli Crane (AZ)
- Greg Murphy (NC)
- Jen Kiggans (VA)
- Juan Ciscomani (AZ)
- Keith Self (TX)
- Morgan Luttrell (TX)

Democrats (11)

- **Mark Takano (CA)**
Ranking Member
- Julia Brownley (CA)
- Mike Levin (CA)
- Frank Mrvan (IN)
- Chris Pappas (NH)
- Chris Deluzio (PA)
- Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (FL)
- Delia Ramirez (IL)
- Greg Landsman (OH)
- Morgan McGarvey (KY)
- Nikki Budzinski (IL)

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Key Legislative Priorities

118th Congress

Correct Inequities/ Parity in Compensation Benefits

- Repeal of offset for military retired pay/
VA disability compensation SC 40%↓
- Repeal of offset of military separation
pay/VA disability compensation
- Parity for survivors (DIC rates equal to
federal employees survivor benefits)
- Study on disabilities and quality of
life/disability compensation

Legislation Introduced

- S. 344/H.R. 1282, **Major Richard Star Act** (concurrent receipt)
- H.R. 3489, **Restore Veteran Compensation Act** (repeal of offset for separation pay/VA disability compensation)
- S. 414/H.R. 1093, **Caring for Survivors Act** (DIC)

Implement the PACT Act and Address Gaps in Toxic Exposure Benefits

- Recognize exposures at K2 and related diseases
- Karshi-Khanabad Air Base in Uzbekistan/former Soviet air base
- 400 chemical compounds: jet fuel, radioactive depleted uranium
- K2 Veterans have a 500% greater chance of developing certain cancers

Radiation Exposure

- Ensure parity for radiation-exposed veterans
- Remove radiation dose-estimate requirements
- DOJ RECA (Radiation Exposure Compensations Act) program
- Payments to uranium workers, on-site nuclear participants and down winders

Ensure Equity in Care for Women, Minority and Underserved Veterans

- Enhance environment of care
- Enhance research and data collection
- Ensure diversity and culturally sensitive programming

Legislation Introduced:

- H.R. 544: **Veterans Infertility Treatment Act of 2023**
- H.R. 2441/S. 1028: **Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act (MST)**

Long-Term Care Options for Service-Disabled and Aging Veterans

- Expand home and community-based care services
- Improve the PCAFC program
- Expand mandatory eligibility for nursing home care to SC veterans rated 50% and 60%

Legislation Introduced:

- S. 141, **Elizabeth Dole Act**

Improve Access to Mental Health/VA Suicide Prevention Efforts

- Increase VA mental health staffing
- Continue lethal-means safety efforts
- Require comparable quality metrics for community care mental health providers
- **Legislation Introduced:**
 - S. 326, the **VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2023**

Expand VA's Capacity to Deliver Timely, High-Quality Health Care

- Increase staffing levels
- Modernize infrastructure
- EHRM

Legislation Introduced:

- S. 42, **BUILD Act** (VA Infrastructure)
- S. 1125, **EHR Program RESET Act of 2023**

Other Key Legislation

- H.R. 2414, **CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act** of 2023
- S. 592, the **DRIVE Act** (Driver Reimbursement Increase for Veteran Equity Act)
- S. 777/H.R. 1529, **COLA (enacted)**

Dental Bills

- S. 3017, **Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act**
- H.R. 2413, **Dental Care for Veterans Act**
- H.R. 2410, **VET CARE Act of 2023**



VA Budget Update

- Independent Budget recommendations for fiscal year 2024 available at www.independentbudget.org
- Independent Budget VSOs testified at SVAC Budget hearing
- IB called for increased funding for— VBA, BVA, health care, infrastructure, research, women veterans, anti-harassment campaign

The Importance of Grassroots Advocacy

DAV CAN—JOIN NOW!

- Let your elected officials know where you stand: join the ranks of **DAV CAN!**
- Add your voice to the chorus of DAV membership and supporters
- Strengthen the messages we're delivering to Capitol Hill
- Keep our promises to America's veterans

DAV Legislative Resources



[VIEW DAV'S FULL CRITICAL POLICY GOALS FOR 2023](#)

[VIEW DAV'S CONDENSED CRITICAL POLICY GOALS FOR 2023](#)

[TAKE ACTION](#)

[2022-2023 Legislative Program \(Resolutions\)](#)

DAV's Legislative Program includes all of the legislative resolutions adopted at our most recent national convention, which guide DAV's positions on federal programs, policies and legislation.



[Congressional Testimony](#)

Read official testimonies DAV has delivered to the Senate and House of Representatives, which cover legislation, funding, policies and proposals to strengthen and reform veterans health care services and benefits programs.

[Issue Briefs](#)

Through a series of DAV issue briefs, learn more about the most critical issues challenging veterans today. Topics include veterans health care reform, caregiver support, women veterans, burn pits and survivor benefits.

[Legislative Webinars](#)

Find out how to become more involved and effective as a DAV advocate through our series of webinars about the legislative process, department and national conventions, resolution writing, Benefits Protection Teams and many other topics of interest to our members and supporters.

[Independent Budget](#)

In partnership with Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), DAV annually produces the *Independent Budget* and policy recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress.

Benefits Protection Team Leaders

- **DAV CAN** (Commander's Action Network)
- **Meet** with Members of Congress at home
- **Educate**—Who We are and What We do
- **Inform** about DAV legislative priorities
- **Webinars** and legislative updates/**Resources**
- **OPA Advocacy Award** for departments and BPTLs

www.dav.org/dav-benefits-protection-team

DAV National Convention 2023

- Thank you for submitting Resolutions!
- **Deadline for Resolution Submittal:**
July 22 – Resolutions@dav.org
- Benefits Protection Team Workshop:
Friday August 4, at 11:00 am
- NEW seminar— “Preparing to Serve
on a Convention Resolution
Committee” August 4, at 3:45 pm

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Thank You!

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