



2022 Legislative Victories for Veterans Second Session of the 117th Congress

Burn Pits, Agent Orange and other toxic exposures

S. 3373, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act of 2022, known as the Honoring Our PACT Act, includes provisions to:

- Provide health care based on toxic exposures;
- Add 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related diseases;
- Add hypertension as a presumptive disease associated with Agent Orange exposure;
- Concede exposure to burn pits and toxic environments;
- Provide a new framework for establishing presumptive diseases in the future;
- Expand radiation-risk activities to include veterans who participated in radiation cleanup at Enewetak Atoll, Palomares, Spain, and Thule, Greenland;
- Include Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa and Johnston Atoll as conceded locations for Agent Orange exposure;
- Require registries for veterans who served at Ft. McClellan and for those exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) chemicals

DAV supported and testified on other versions of this bill as well. Our support was based on the following 2021–2022 DAV Resolutions:

- 156, Support legislation for studies and presumptive diseases related to PFAS exposure;
- 161, Support legislation to provide studies related to health care and benefits resulting from toxic exposures at Karshi-Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan;
- 080, Support legislation to provide for service connection for disabling conditions resulting from toxic and environmental exposures;
- 295, Support legislation that concedes exposure to herbicide agents of service members who served in Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll during the Vietnam era;
- 003, Support legislation authorizing presumptive service connection for certain diseases based on herbicide exposure of military personnel who served at air bases in Thailand during the Vietnam War;
- 163, Support legislation to expand radiation risk activities;
- 091, Support legislation to establish presumptive service connection for diseases and illnesses related to contaminants at Fort McClellan, Alabama;
- 093, Compensate Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from illnesses circumstantially linked to their service in the Persian Gulf War;
- 157, Support legislation for health care and concession of exposure for burn pits; and
- 162, Support legislation that recognizes presumptive service connection for hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance as related to exposure to Agent Orange and herbicides.



The Honoring Our PACT Act was enacted on August 10, 2022, and became **Public-Law 117-168**. To view this bill, [click here](#).

Disability Compensation

- ▶ H.R. 7846, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022, provided an 8.7% increase for all disability compensation rates effective December 1, 2022. DAV supported this bill in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 070, to provide for realistic cost-of-living allowances.

The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act was enacted on October 10, 2022, and became **Public Law 117-191**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

Education & Employment

- ▶ S. 4089, the Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program Restoration prohibits the VA from charging any entitlement to retraining assistance under the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program in situations where an individual was unable to complete a course or program as a result of the closure of an educational institution or the disapproval of a program by the state approving agency or the VA. DAV supported this legislation based on 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 265, to provide adequate funding and permanency for veterans' employment and/or training programs.

The Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program Restoration Act was enacted on June 7, 2022, and became **Public Law 117-138**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

- ▶ S. 4458, the Ensuring Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022, will clarify the requirements of the 85/15 rule, ensuring education programs can continue accepting veterans while maintaining oversight to prevent fraudulent programs from taking advantage of veterans. DAV supported S. 4458 in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 174, which supports legislation that would improve and protect the VA's education benefits for service-disabled veterans.

The Ensuring Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022 was enacted on August 26, 2022, and became **Public Law 117-174**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

- ▶ H.R. 6604, the Veterans Eligible to Transfer School (VETS) Credit Act, will address eligibility for VA educational assistance for individuals who are transferring credits due to the closure or disapproval of a program of education. DAV supported H.R. 6604 in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 174, which supports legislation that would improve and protect the VA's education benefits for service-disabled veterans.

The Veterans Eligible to Transfer School Credit Act was enacted on December 12, 2022, and became **Public Law 117-297**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

Health Care

- ▶ H.R. 4591, the VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act, requires VA to report quarterly on (1) the costs of its Electronic Health Record Modernization Program, including by describing all



expenses driven by the program; and (2) the performance metrics and outcomes of the program. DAV supported this legislation in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 009, urging VA to provide service-connected veterans meaningful access to personal health information.

The VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act was enacted on June 23, 2022, and became **Public Law 117-154**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

- H.R. 5754, the Patient Advocate Tracker Act, requires the Office of Patient Advocacy within the Veterans Health Administration to establish an information technology system that allows veterans or their representatives to electronically file a complaint with a patient advocate and review the status of a filed complaint. DAV supported and testified on this legislation in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 508, to strengthen and protect the VA health care system.

The Patient Advocate Tracker Act was enacted on September 16, 2022, and became **Public Law 117-175**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

Life Insurance

- H.R. 8260, the Faster Payments to Veterans’ Survivors Act, modifies policies and procedures related to the payment of benefits under certain life insurance programs administered by VA. If a primary beneficiary has not made a claim for payment within one year (currently two years) after the death of the insured under the National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) program or the United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI) program, the VA is authorized to make payment to another designated beneficiary as if the primary beneficiary had predeceased the insured. DAV supported this legislation in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 036, supporting meaningful claims processing reform.

The Faster Payments to Veterans’ Survivors Act was enacted December 27, 2022, and became **Public Law 117-313**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

Military sexual trauma (MST)

- H.R. 2724, requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that each individual who files a claim relating to military sexual trauma is assigned a peer support specialist during the claims process, unless the individual elects to not have such support. It also requires a peer support specialist to be trained as a victim advocate who may not be responsible for any part of adjudicating the individual’s claim. DAV supported this legislation in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 074, to oversee and evaluate claims for residuals of MST.

The VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act was enacted December 27, 2022 and became **Public Law 117-271**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

- H.R. 6961, Dignity for MST Survivors Act, modifies communications and procedures for VA and BVA (Board of Veterans’ Appeals) regarding claims for compensation based on MST experienced by veterans. It requires VA to ensure each member of BVA is offered annual training on MST and proceedings that concern a claim for compensation based on MST. A proceeding



that concerns a claim for compensation based on MST may not be assigned to a member of the BVA (or a panel of members) unless such persons have completed the annual training. DAV supported this legislation in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 074, to oversee and evaluate claims for residuals of MST.

The Dignity for MST Survivors Act was enacted December 27, 2022, and became **Public Law 117-300**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

- H.R. 7335, MST Claims Coordination Act modifies VA claims process for claims related to MST. During or immediately after a medical examination, hearing before BVA, or other relevant event, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) must coordinate with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to provide veterans who elect to receive materials with outreach letters, information on the Veterans Crisis Line, information on how to make an appointment with a mental health provider, and other information on available resources relating to MST. Additionally, VHA and VBA must provide such materials with the determination the VA provides to the claimant in connection with a claim for compensation. DAV supported this legislation in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 074, to oversee and evaluate claims for residuals of MST.

The MST Claims Coordination Act was enacted December 27, 2022, and became **Public Law 117-303**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

Transition Assistance

- S. 1198, the Solid Start Act, permanently authorizes and expands the Solid Start program, which is a VA outreach program for veterans in their first year of separation from the military. Specifically, the act requires VA to coordinate with the Department of Defense to prioritize outreach to veterans who have accessed mental health resources prior to separation from the Armed Forces. DAV testified and supported this legislation in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 128, to monitor and improve services to transitioning service members.

The Solid Start Act was enacted on October 17, 2022, and became **Public Law 117-205**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

Women Veterans

- S. 2102, the Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act, expands eligibility for VHA mammography screenings to veterans who served in certain locations during specified periods, including those who were exposed to toxic substances. DAV supported and testified on this bill in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 015, to support enhanced medical services for women veterans.

The Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act was enacted on June 7, 2022, and became **Public Law 117-133**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

- S. 2533, the Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Opinions (MAMMO) Act requires the VA to submit a strategic plan for improving breast imaging services for veterans, implement



a three-year pilot program to provide tele-screening mammography services for veterans who live in locations where access to breast imaging services at a VA facility is difficult or unfeasible, and upgrade all mammography services at its facilities to use three-dimensional breast imaging. DAV supported and testified on this bill in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 015, to support enhanced medical services for women veterans.

The Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Opinions (MAMMO) Act was enacted on June 7, 2022, and became **Public Law 117-135**. To view the bill, [click here](#).

Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022

On December 22, 2022, Congress passed H.R. 7939, also known as the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022. This legislation includes revised language from the House passed H.R. 3304, the AUTO for Veterans Act, and several veterans' education provisions.

Automobile Grants & Improvements

This law authorizes VA to provide an additional automobile allowance immediately to eligible veterans if 30 years have elapsed since the date they received their first automobile grant. Ten years after the enactment of this section, veterans who have waited more than 10 years would be eligible for the additional automobile allowance. Additionally, this changes the definition of “medical services,” to include certain vehicle modifications like van lifts, which are offered through VA’s Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE) program. A provision designates non-articulating trailers designed to transport powered wheelchairs, powered scooters, or other similar mobility devices as adaptive equipment.

This section was based on H.R. 1361, H.R. 3304, and S. 444, which DAV supported in accord with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 364.

Education

This bill provides permanent authority for the application of certain flexibilities to assist veterans with their educational assistance benefits during emergency situations. Specifically, the bill extends certain program adjustments that were implemented during the COVID-19 emergency to other emergency situations that may arise and have an effect on veterans and their educational assistance benefits.

Among other flexibilities, the bill:

- Authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue to provide educational assistance, including monthly housing stipends or subsistence allowances, for programs of education that have been converted to distance learning due to an emergency or health-related situation;
- Ensures that an educational assistance payment will not be charged against any entitlement to educational assistance or counted against the aggregate period in situations where an individual was unable to complete a course or program due to an emergency situation;
- Extends the time limitation for using educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill, Post-9/11 GI Bill, or vocational rehabilitation program when institutions are closed due to an emergency situation or executive order;
- Authorizes the payment of work-study allowances during emergency periods;
- Ensures an educational assistance payment shall not be charged against an individual’s



entitlement if the individual was unable to complete a course or program due to the temporary closure of an educational institution or the temporary termination of a program by reason of an emergency situation; and

- ▶ Adjusts the administration of certain benefits for veterans participating in an apprenticeship or other on-job training.

DAV supported this original education bill in accord with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 174. The Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 was enacted on January 5, 2023. To view this bill, [click here](#).

Veterans Authorizing Provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (Public Law 117-328)

In December 2022, the Senate and House passed the Appropriations Act that would fund the government through September 2023. This included an omnibus veterans’ bill with multiple sections reflecting DAV-supported legislation from the 117th Congress. Below is a breakdown of veteran’s provisions included in the omnibus in two divisions and by section.

Please note, this only includes those veteran’s provisions supported by DAV. To view the entire bill, [click here](#).

Division A – Joseph Maxwell Cleland and Robert Joseph Dole

Memorial Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2022

Health Care

- ▶ **Sec. 102. Department of Veterans Affairs treatment and research of prostate cancer.** This requires VA to establish a clinical pathway for all stages of prostate cancer and for VA to submit to Congress a plan that provides for continuous VA research funding that supports prostate cancer research and positions VA as a national resource for prostate cancer detection and research. This is based on legislation, S. 2720 and H.R. 4880, the Veterans Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution Nos. 101 and 207.
- ▶ **Sec. 142. Claims for payment from Department of Veterans Affairs for emergency treatment furnished to veterans.** Provides a deadline of 180 days for the filing of claims for payment of veterans’ nonservice-connected emergency treatment. Veterans may not be held liable for payment if a claim was submitted after 180 days due to administrative effort by either the individual or entity, or VA. For treatment of service-connected conditions, it removes veterans’ financial liability for emergency care costs in the event individual or entity, or VA, make an error. This section is based on S. 1875, the Veterans’ Emergency Care Claims Parity Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 079.

Care for Aging Veterans

- ▶ **Sec. 162. Improvement of state veterans homes.** Requires VA to standardize the process for



entering into sharing agreements between state veterans homes and medical centers. It requires VA to monitor contractors used to conduct inspections of State homes. Deficiencies in those inspections would be required to be reported to VA and for VA to publish results of those inspections on its website, as well as corrective actions planned. It also requires VA to ensure that catastrophically disabled veterans in state homes are not paying medication copayments, for parity with those who reside elsewhere. This section is based on S. 1965 and H.R. 6332, the Planning for Aging Veterans Act of 2021, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019–2021 DAV Resolution No. 072.

- ▶ **Sec. 163. Geriatric psychiatry pilot program at state veterans homes.** Requires a two-year VA pilot program to provide geriatric psychiatry assistance to veterans living at state veterans homes. State homes with a high proportion of residents with unmet mental health needs, state homes located in mental health professional shortage areas, and state homes in rural or highly rural areas should be given consideration for this pilot program. This section is based on S. 1965 and H.R. 6332, the Planning for Aging Veterans Act of 2021, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 072.
- ▶ **Sec. 164. Support for aging veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness.** Directs VA to work with public housing authorities and local organizations to assist aging homeless veterans in accessing existing housing and supportive services. This section is based on S. 1965 and H.R. 6332, the Planning for Aging Veterans Act of 2021, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 072.
- ▶ **Sec. 165. Secretary of Veterans Affairs contract authority for payment of care for veterans in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical foster homes.** Allows the VA to pay for veterans to receive care in medical foster homes – an existing VA long-term care program for veterans who are unable to live independently and prefer a family setting – for five years after the enactment of this bill. It permits VA to pay for no more than a daily average of 900 veterans receiving care in a medical foster home in a given year. It requires VA to create a system to monitor this program and requires the Government Accountability Office to submit reports to Congress regarding the implementation of this program. This section is based on S. 2852 and H.R. 7158, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 372.

Research Matters

- ▶ **Sec. 181. Inapplicability of Paperwork Reduction Act.** Excludes VHA research activities from certain requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act. This section is based on H.R. 5721, the VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research (VIPER) Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 133.
- ▶ **Sec. 182. Research and Development.** Fixes an issue with how VA researchers are paid for research conducted outside of their VA allocated research hours, provided the research conducted still meets the VA criteria for compensation. This section is based on H.R. 5721, the VIPER Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 133.
- ▶ **Sec. 183. Expansion of hiring authorities for certain classes of research occupations.** Expands VA's authority to hire statisticians, economists, informaticists, and data scientists for research



purposes. These positions are crucial for VA research. This section is based on H.R. 5721, the VIPER Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 133.

- **Sec. 184. Comptroller General study on dedicated research time for certain personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs.** Mandates a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study on the time and resources dedicated to VA-appointed clinician-scientists. A report will be due two years after enactment and should include information on clinician-scientists with dedicated time for research (a common promise when these employees are hired) and what the effects of current policies are on recruitment, retention, and research productivity. This section is based on H.R. 5721, the VIPER Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 133.

Mental Health Care

- **Sec. 193A. Prohibition on collection of copayments for first three mental health care outpatient visits of veterans. Prevents VA from imposing or collecting copayments for a veteran's first three mental health care outpatient visits each calendar year, beginning 180 days after bill enactment.** This provision will terminate five years after the enactment of this bill. This section is based on S. 4951 and H.R. 7589, REMOVE Copays Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 141.

Other Matters

- **Sec. 195. Improved transparency of, access to, and usability of data provided by Department of Veterans Affairs.** Requires a review of data that is publicly available on the Access to Care section of VA's website and for VA to consult with veterans service organizations, veterans, and caregivers of veterans to gather insights about potential modifications that could help improve users' understanding and use of the data. This section is based on S. 1319 and H.R. 2775, the VA Quality Health Care Accountability and Transparency Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 368.

Benefits Matters

- **Sec. 201. Improvements to process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for clothing allowance claims.** Currently, veterans with a clothing allowance must re-apply each year. This section improves the grant process to allow for continuous payments without re-application if veterans meet VA regulations that determine whether the wear or tear on clothing from a prosthetic, orthopedic appliance, or medication is as likely as not subject to no change for the duration of use. This section is based on S. 2513, the Brian Neuman Department of Veterans Affairs Clothing Allowance Improvement Act of 2021, and H.R. 4772, the Mark O'Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 019.
- **Sec. 202. Medical opinions for certain veterans with service-connected disabilities who die of COVID-19.** Requires VA to determine whether a previously identified service-connected injury or ailment served as a principal or contributing factor for veterans who died from COVID-19 when survivors file for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Requires VA to provide



information about applying for DIC when a veteran dies from COVID. It mandates an annual report on the effects of this provision on DIC compensation claims. It also mandates studies on denied claims where COVID-19 played a role in the death of the veteran. This section is based on provisions from S. 89 and H.R. 746, the Ensuring Survivor Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 360.

Education

- **Sec. 211. Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program.** Establishes three regional pilot programs at no less than two Tribal Colleges and Universities for a VetSuccess program, which provides a VA vocational rehabilitation counselor and a VA Vet Center Outreach Coordinator on campus. It requires a report on the effectiveness of the program, including information on number of participants at program locations, types of services provided, graduation rate of participants, employment rates post-graduation, feedback on how to improve the program, and a detailed proposal on the possibility of extending the program permanently and/or expanding the amount of program locations. This section is based on H.R. 2878, the Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 272.
- **Sec. 212. Education for separating members of the Armed Forces regarding registered apprenticeships.** Requires the Department of Labor (DOL) to provide information concerning apprenticeship programs during Transition Assistance Program classes. This section is based on H.R. 147, the BRAVE Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 128.
- **Sec. 213. Websites regarding apprenticeship programs.** Requires DOL to include information regarding apprenticeships on their websites. This section is based on H.R. 147, the BRAVE Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 128.
- **Sec. 216. Establishment of protections for a member of the Armed Forces who leaves a course of education, paid for with certain educational assistance, to perform certain service.** Prevents colleges and universities from failing or taking punitive action against a student using educational benefits who is forced to withdraw from courses in order to meet National Guard or Reserve obligations. It requires educational institutions to refund all money, including housing and administrative costs, to a student forced to withdraw due to National Guard or Reserve obligations. This section is based on H.R. 5603, the Protections for Student Veterans Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 174.
- **Sec. 232. Extension of time limitation for use of entitlement under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations.** Allows for the extension of GI Bill delimiting dates during national emergencies. This section is based on S.1936 and H.R.2167, the GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 174.
- **Sec. 233. Extension of period of eligibility by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations under Department of Veterans Affairs training and rehabilitation program for veterans with service-connected disabilities.** Extends period of eligibility for Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) during emergencies. This section is based on S.1936 and



H.R.2167, the GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 174.

- **Sec. 234. Period for eligibility under Survivors' And Dependents' Educational Assistance Program of Department of Veterans Affairs.** Removes age restrictions for survivors using the VA DEA program after August 2023. This section is based on S.1936 and H.R.2167, the GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 174.

Rural Veterans Travel Enhancement

- **Sec. 241. Comptroller General of the United States report on fraud, waste, and abuse of the Department of Veterans Affairs beneficiary travel program.** Directs GAO to conduct a study on waste, fraud, and abuse of the VA beneficiary travel program. This review will be helpful in assessing the effectiveness of the new Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System in reducing fraud and errors. This section is based on S. 2627 and H.R. 4961, the Rural Veterans Travel Enhancement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 014.
- **Sec. 242. Comptroller General study and report on effectiveness of Department of Veterans Affairs beneficiary travel program mileage reimbursement and deductible amounts.** Directs GAO to conduct a study and issue a report on the effectiveness of the VA's travel program mileage reimbursement and deductible amounts. This report would focus on whether the current reimbursement rate is accurate and effective for mitigating the travel costs of veterans using the program to travel to and from VA facilities for medical appointments. This section is based on S. 2627 and H.R. 4961, the Rural Veterans Travel Enhancement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 014.
- **Sec. 243. Department of Veterans Affairs transportation pilot program for low income veterans.** Creates a five-year, five-site pilot program whereby the VA Beneficiary Travel program will provide mileage reimbursement in advance of confirmed medical appointments for low-income veterans. This program is intended to provide support to veterans for whom the cost of gas to and from health care appointments can mean forgoing necessary medical care. This section is based on S. 2627 and H.R. 4961, the Rural Veterans Travel Enhancement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 014.
- **Sec. 244. Pilot program for travel cost reimbursement for accessing readjustment counseling services.** Creates a five-year, five-site pilot program for providing veterans with financial support for transportation to and from Vet Center appointments. Previous programs were focused only on veterans eligible for the VHA Beneficiary Travel program, which has very different eligibility requirements and operates in an entirely different administration within VA. This section is based on S. 2627 and H.R. 4961, the Rural Veterans Travel Enhancement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 014.

VA Beneficiary Debt Collection Improvement

- **Sec. 252. Prohibition of debt arising from overpayment due to delay in processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs.** Prohibits VA from establishing a debt due to an overpayment



if that overpayment was a result of a processing delay by VA. It requires that notices of debts include detailed explanations regarding rights to dispute the overpayment and ability to request a waiver. It delays the Department's ability to act on overpayments until 90 days after the date of the Secretary's notice as established. It also mandates an annual report on improvements to communication of debts and payment options for people who receive overpayments. This section is based on H.R. 2935, the VA Beneficiary Debt Collection Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 108.

- ▶ **Sec. 253. Prohibition on Department of Veterans Affairs interest and administrative cost charges for debts relating to certain benefits programs.** Changes the incursion of interest for certain debts, including overpayments, loans, pensions, and education assistance. Effective to debts incurred after enactment. This section is based on H.R. 2935, the VA Beneficiary Debt Collection Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 108.
- ▶ **Sec. 254. Extension of window to request relief from recovery of debt arising under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.** Extends the window to request relief from attempts to recover a debt by VA from 180 days to one year. This would go into effect two years after enactment. This section is based on H.R. 2935, the VA Beneficiary Debt Collection Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 108.
- ▶ **Sec. 255. Reforms relating to recovery by Department of Veterans Affairs of amounts owed by individuals to the United States.** Prohibits VA from deducting existing benefits from veterans indebted to VA due to overpayments while the debt is being disputed. Requires VA to update its website with timely information on disputing a debt as well as how to access resources to dispute a debt. It prohibits VA from attempting to collect a debt when the cost of recovery would be greater than the amount owed. This section is based on H.R. 2935, the VA Beneficiary Debt Collection Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 108.

Homeless Matters

- ▶ **Sec. 301. Adjustments of grants awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for comprehensive service programs to serve homeless veterans.** Removes the matching grants requirement for VA capital grants for at least five years following enactment of this Act, at which point the Secretary will have the option to require matching funds up to 30% of the cost of a project. Removes real property or equipment disposition requirements for past, present, and future grantees. These grants are essential for transitional housing facilities to make necessary infrastructure changes to their facilities to improve health and safety of veterans by converting from congregate to individual housing models. This section is based on S. 2172, the Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act of 2021, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021-2022 DAV Resolution No. 119.
- ▶ **Sec. 302. Modifications to program to improve retention of housing by formerly homeless veterans and veterans at risk of becoming homeless.** Expands the Grant and Per Diem case managers program to include assisting veterans with accessing resources available to them provided by federal, state, local, and tribal governments. It allows for Grant and Per Diem case



managers in high-demand areas, who are undergoing training to meet requirements for their role, to provide these case management services under the supervision of an individual who does meet those requirements. This section is based on S. 2172, the Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act of 2021, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 119.

- ▶ **Sec. 303. Modifications to homeless veterans reintegration programs.** Makes the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) offered through the DOL permanent. This program helps connect homeless veterans connect with meaningful long-term employment. It increases minimum authorized appropriations to \$60,000,000 annually. It expands technical assistance and support to the whole grant and contract process, including during the application period when it is not currently available. It also directs the Secretary of Labor to emphasize outreach and technical assistance in states that do not currently have any HVRP programs. Lastly, it adds an annual report to Congress on the services provided through grantees and demographic data on veterans served and expands the biennial report to Congress to include further insight into the grantee applicant evaluation process, with a focus on applicants from states without existing grantees. This is based on S. 2172, the Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act of 2021 and S. 3094, the Reaching Every Homeless Veteran Act of 2021, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 119.
- ▶ **Sec. 304. Expansion and extension of Department of Veterans Affairs housing assistance for homeless veterans.** Reauthorizes and amends a VA program allowing the Secretary to sell, lease, rent, or donate a home repossessed due to VA Home Loan default to an entity providing services to at-risk or homeless veterans for the purpose of providing shelter or permanent housing for homeless veterans and their families. This section is based on H.R. 2878, the Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act, originally introduced in H.R. 2419, the Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans Act of 2021. DAV supported both of these bills in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution Nos. 272 and 119, respectively.
- ▶ **Sec. 305. Training and technical assistance provided by Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain entities.** Requires VA to provide training and technical assistance, primarily for the purpose of sharing best practices, to entities that provide services to veterans at risk of, experiencing, or transitioning out of homelessness. It removes caps on funding for VA Homeless Program Office to provide technical support and training to participants in the Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program and Grant Per Diem recipients. This section is based on S. 2172, the Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act and S. 612, the Improving Housing Outcomes for Veterans Act. DAV supported both bills in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 119.
- ▶ **Sec. 306. Modification of eligibility requirements for entities collaborating with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide case management services to homeless veterans in the Department of Housing and Urban Development-Department of Veterans Affairs supported housing program.** Requires Department of Housing and Urban Development-Department of Veterans Affairs (HUD-VASH) case management contracting recipients to have experience providing those services. This section is based on S. 2172, the Building Solutions for Veterans



Experiencing Homelessness Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 119.

- **Sec. 307. Department of Veterans Affairs sharing of information relating to coordinated entry processes for housing and services operated under Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Program.** Requires VA to share information with VA staff regarding best practices for collaboration between VA, homelessness service providers, and other local partners, including entities associated with HUD. This section is based on S. 612, the Improving Housing Outcomes for Veterans Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 119.
- **Sec. 308. Department of Veterans Affairs communication with employees responsible for homelessness assistance programs.** Requires VA Under Secretary for Health to communicate the methods for performance measurement and how to obtain and provide feedback on performance measures to all employees working on issues related to homelessness assistance. This section is based on S. 612, the Improving Housing Outcomes for Veterans Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 119.
- **Sec. 309. System for sharing and reporting data.** Requires VA and HUD to work together to develop a system of information sharing between Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) of HUD and the Homeless Operations Management and Evaluation System of VA within three years of enactment. This section is based on S. 612, the Improving Housing Outcomes for Veterans Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 119.
- **Sec. 310. Pilot program on grants for health care for homeless veterans.** Requires VA to establish a five-year, five-site pilot program through which organizations providing transitional housing to veterans can apply for grants to fund hiring of on-site medical professionals and their supplies. The program must be distributed equitably across geographic regions, and must prioritize rural, tribal, and elderly veteran communities. This section is based on S. 2172, the Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 119.
- **Sec. 311. Pilot program on award of grants for substance use disorder recovery for homeless veterans.** Requires VA to establish a five-year, five-site pilot program providing grants to substance use disorder recovery programs in the community for those programs to provide their services to veterans who are homeless, were previously homeless and are transitioning to permanent housing, or are at risk of becoming homeless. This section is based on S. 2172, the Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 119.
- **Sec. 312. Report by Comptroller General of the United States on affordable housing for veterans.** Mandates a GAO study on the availability of affordable housing for veterans and the impact this availability has on veterans transitioning out of temporary housing provided by VA. This section is based on S. 2172, the Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 119.
- **Sec. 313. Study on financial and credit counseling.** Directs VA to study the efficacy and barriers to credit and financial counseling for homeless and unstably housed veterans, and to provide



recommendations for improvements to these services. The Secretary is authorized to enter into a contract with an outside organization to conduct the study. The Secretary is required to submit an interim and final report to Congress on the study findings. This section is based on H.R. 1257, the Homeless Veterans CREDIT Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 119.

Other Matters

- **Sec. 401. Department of Veterans Affairs supply chain resiliency.** Requires VA to submit a report to the Senate and House Veterans Committees (SVAC and HVAC) no later than 90 days from enactment on the types of items the Secretary considers critical to the ongoing COVID-19 response and future pandemics. It requires VA and DOD to enter into an agreement no later than one year from enactment for the VA to participate in the Warstopper program currently run by the Defense Logistics Agency. It requires VA to submit a report no later than 450 days after enactment to SVAC and HVAC on the implementation of the plan for VA to join the Warstopper program. This section is based on S. 887 and H.R. 2082, the VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 019.
- **Sec. 402. Improvements to equal employment opportunity functions of Department of Veterans Affairs.** Clarifies the role of VA's Equal Employment Opportunity Director and VA facility Equal Employment Opportunity staff, and requires managers to report instances of harassment to Office of Resolution Management. It mandates additional annual training for all VA staff on sexual harassment and employment discrimination, which must begin within 180 days of enactment. It also mandates reports to Congress every 180 days on progress related to sexual harassment and employment discrimination reporting requirements. This section is based on S. 1243 and H.R. 2704, the Improving VA Accountability to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 429.
- **Sec. 403. Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act of 2022.** This section, as well as Section 404, is intended to improve VA's project management, planning, and prioritization functions over its information technology programs and to more regularly report to Congress so as to increase accountability and improve VA IT performance. Requires VA to report to Congress before proceeding on major IT projects including those with life cycle costs projected at more than \$1 billion or \$200 million annually. Reports must include the project's estimated acquisition, implementation, and life cycle costs; implementation schedule and milestones; and key business, functional, and performance objectives. The section requires VA to report to Congress on changes or variances to these projects' baseline plans when those changes meet the thresholds outlined in the section (i.e. if the project misses or changes significant cost, schedule, and IT functionality targets). It requires VA to ensure major IT projects are managed by interdisciplinary teams with relevant credentials and certifications. It brings oversight of VA Financial Services Center's IT employees/contractors, operations, security, and related functions under the authority of VA's Chief Information Officer. It also requires VA to submit to Congress, copies of annual reports it produces on VA's IT portfolio for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Additionally, it requires VA's annual budget submission to include a list of



active VA IT projects, a prioritized list of unfunded projects, and a projection of VA IT funding needs over the next three years. This section is based on S. 731 and H.R. 2250, the Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act of 2021, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 070.

- **Sec. 404. Report on information technology dashboard information.** Requires VA to report to Congress on the ratings, rankings, and risk categorization of VA IT projects that VA uses to report to OMB under existing law. This section is based on S. 731 and H.R. 2250, the Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act of 2021, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 070.
- **Sec. 406. Plan for reduction of backlog of Freedom of Information Act requests.** Requires VA to establish and implement a plan for reducing its backlog of requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) including through technology and improved procedures. It requires VA to request that the Office of Government Information Services of the National Archives and Records Administration conduct an assessment of VA’s compliance with FOIA. It mandates, for five years, annual reports from VA on its FOIA compliance improvement efforts and make such reports available on its website. This section is based on S. 2163, the VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 036.

Division B – STRONG Veterans Act of 2022

Training to Support Veterans’ Mental Health

- **Sec. 101. Mental health and suicide prevention outreach to minority veterans and American Indian and Alaska Native veterans.** Native Americans serve in the US military in disproportionately high rates and die by suicide at disproportionately high rates, as well. This bill directs VA to ensure that every VA medical center has at least one minority veteran coordinator, trained by VA in consultation with tribes and tribal programs in culturally appropriate mental health promotion and suicide prevention approaches. The minority veteran coordinators must work with facility suicide prevention coordinators to document and implement mental health outreach and services to tribes in their catchment areas. This section is based on S. 5181 and H.R. 912, the American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 251.
- **Sec. 102. Expansion of Vet Center workforce.** This section increases Vet Center capacity by mandating the hiring of 50 additional full-time equivalent employees for Vet Centers. It is based on S. 3293, the Post-9/11 Veterans’ Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 118.
- **Sec. 103. Expansion of mental health training for Department of Veterans Affairs.** Within three years, this section directs VA to add an additional 250 paid trainee slots in covered mental health disciplines to the VA workforce. The term “covered mental health disciplines” refers to psychiatry, psychology, advanced practice nursing (with a focus on mental health or substance use disorder), social work, licensed professional mental health counseling, and marriage and family therapy. This section is based on S. 3293, the Post-9/11 Veterans’ Mental Health Care



Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 118.

- **Sec. 104. Expansion of scholarships and loan repayment programs for mental health providers.** This section directs VA to include not fewer than an additional (as compared to academic year 2021) 50 awards per academic year under the VA Health Professional Scholarship Program under subchapter II of chapter 76 of title 38, United States Code, for applicants otherwise eligible for such program who are pursuing degrees or training in mental health disciplines, including advanced practice nursing (with a focus on mental health or substance use disorder), psychology, and social work. This section is based on S. 3293, the Post-9/11 Veterans' Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 118.

Transition of Crisis Line Number

- **Sec. 231. Feedback on transition of crisis line number.** Title II directs a series of actions to improve the Veterans Crisis Line training and quality management, evaluate its effectiveness, and ensure enough resources are available as the new 3-digit crisis line number went into effect in July 2022. This section is based on S. 2283 and H.R. 5073, the REACH for Veterans Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 059.

Outreach to Veterans

- **Sec. 302. Improvements to Veterans Justice Outreach Program.** This provision requires VA to improve its outreach to justice-involved veterans, veterans service organizations, and stakeholders in the criminal justice community (including law enforcement, court officials, and jail administrators), to improve awareness of VA's Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) program. It also requires VA to increase the number of VJO specialists serving justice-involved veterans in rural, remote, or underserved areas. In addition, VA is directed to carry out mandatory annual training for VJO specialists and establish performance goals, measures, and implementation timelines for the VJO program and its outreach specialists. This section is based on S. 3323 and H.R. 5529, the Veterans Justice Outreach Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 132.
- **Sec. 303. Department of Veterans Affairs Governors Challenge Program.** VA's Governors' Challenge program is an existing, collaborative effort with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to help states develop veteran suicide prevention proposals. This bill gives VA two new authorities within its existing Governors' Challenge veteran suicide prevention program: 1) it directs VA to treat tribes equal to states for the purpose of inclusion in the program; and 2) it allows VA to provide not only technical assistance to states and tribes, but also grants for actual implementation of state and tribal veteran suicide prevention proposals. This section is based on H.R. 5317, the VA Governors Challenge Expansion, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 251.

Mental Health Care Delivery

- **Sec. 401. Expansion of peer specialist support program of Department of Veterans Affairs.** Peer



specialists at VA are veterans in recovery from their own challenges with mental illness and substance use, trained to help other veterans successfully engage in treatment. They have been both popular with veterans and effective. This bill gradually expands the number of VA peer specialists in all VA medical centers. This section is based on S. 2386 and H.R. 4575, the Veteran Peer Specialist Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 019.

- ▶ **Sec. 402. Expansion of Vet Center services.** This section would make certain student veterans eligible for using Vet Centers even if they would not meet Vet Center eligibility criteria were they not currently students (for example, through lack of combat deployments). Transitions from military to veteran status, and from non-student to student are times of increased stress and suicide risk, and it is crucial to support increased access to the mental health and other services and benefits during this time. This section is based H.R. 4233, the Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution No. 059.
- ▶ **Sec. 403. Eligibility for mental health services.** This section allows Vet Centers to provide readjustment counseling and related mental health services to family members of service members or veterans who died by suicide. The definition of “family member” includes individuals who are the parent, spouse, child, step-family member, or extended family member of a veteran or service member; and someone who lives with the veteran or service member but is not a family member. This section is based on S. 2817 and H.R. 5029, the Expanding the Families of Veterans Access to Mental Health Services Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2022–2023 DAV Resolution Nos. 023, 057, 080, and 082.
- ▶ **Sec. 404. Mental health consultations.** This section amends the U.S. Code such that not later than 30 days after the date on which a veteran submits to the VA Secretary a claim for compensation under this chapter for service-connected disability relating to a mental health diagnosis, the Secretary shall offer the veteran a mental health consultation to assess the mental health needs of and care options for the veteran. This section is based on S. 3293, the Post-9/11 Veterans’ Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 118.

Research

- ▶ **Sec. 501. Veterans integration to academic leadership program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.** This provision requires VA to submit to Congress within one year of enactment a report on the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) program. Specifically, VA must assess the number of VA medical centers, institutions of higher learning, non-college degree programs, and student veterans supported by the program. In addition, the report must evaluate relevant trends since the program began, including the levels of staff and resources allocated to the program and the outcomes and effectiveness of the program. In addition, VA’s report must examine barriers to expanding the program and how the Department plans to address these barriers. Finally, VA’s report must assess whether the program should be expanded outside of VHA’s Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention to support student veterans with needs unrelated to mental health or suicide. This section is based on S. 3368 and H.R. 5516, the VITAL Assessment Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2019-2021 DAV Resolution No. 370.
- ▶ **Sec. 502. Improvement of sleep disorder care furnished by Department of Veterans Affairs.**



This section directs the Secretary of VA to improve the assessment and treatment of veterans with sleep disorders, including by conducting in-home sleep studies for veterans, following an analysis of the ability of VA to treat sleep disorders among veterans, including—(1) assessment and treatment options for such disorders; (2) barriers to care for such disorders, such as wait time, travel time, and lack of staffing; (3) the efficacy of the clinical practice guidelines of VA and the Department of Defense for such disorders; and (4) the availability of and efficacy of the use by VA of cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia. This section is based on S. 3293, the Post-9/11 Veterans’ Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 118.

- ▶ **Sec. 503. Study on inpatient mental health and substance use care from Department of Veterans Affairs.** This section mandates that not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of VA shall complete the conduct of a study on access of veterans to care under the residential rehabilitation treatment programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine—(1) if there are sufficient geographic offerings of inpatient mental health care, especially for veterans in rural and remote communities; (2) if there are sufficient bed spaces at each location, based on demand and drive time from the homes of veterans; (3) if there are any workforce-related capacity limitations at each location, including if beds are unable to be used because there are not enough providers to care for additional patients; (4) if there are diagnosis-specific or sex-specific barriers to accessing care under such programs; and (5) the average wait time for a bed in such a program, broken out by— (A) Veterans Integrated Service Network; (B) rural or urban area; (C) sex; and (D) specialty (general program, substance use disorder program, military sexual trauma program, etc.). This section is based on S. 3293, the Post-9/11 Veterans’ Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 118.
- ▶ **Sec. 504. Study on treatment from Department of Veterans Affairs for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.** This section directs VA to conduct a study examining the availability of treatment programs for veterans with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (including both inpatient and outpatient care); any geographic disparities in access to such programs, such as for rural and remote veterans; and the average wait times for care under such programs. This section is based on S. 3293, the Post-9/11 Veterans’ Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 118.
- ▶ **Sec. 505. Study on workload of suicide prevention teams of Department of Veterans Affairs.** This provision directs VA to conduct a study evaluating the workload of local suicide prevention teams of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The study shall identify the effects of the growth of the suicide prevention program of the Department on the workload of suicide prevention teams; incorporate key practices for staffing model design in determining suicide prevention staffing needs; and determine which facilities of the Department need increased suicide prevention coordinator staffing to meet the needs of veterans, with an emphasis placed on facilities with high patient volume and facilities located in states with high rates of veteran suicide. This section is based on S. 3293, the Post-9/11 Veterans’ Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 118.



- **Sec. 506. Expansion of suicide prevention and mental health research.** This section authorizes an additional \$10,000,000 to be used by VA's Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention of the Department and the Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center for the purposes of conducting research on the factors impacting veteran suicide and best practices for early intervention and support. This section is based on S. 3293, the Post-9/11 Veterans' Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 118.
- **Sec. 507. Study on mental health and suicide prevention support for military families.** This section directs the Secretary of VA, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, to conduct a study on secondary post-traumatic stress disorder and depression and its impact on spouses, children, and caregivers of members of the Armed Forces. This section is based on S. 3293, the Post-9/11 Veterans' Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 118.
- **Sec. 508. Research on brain health.** This section authorizes an additional \$5,000,000 for ongoing and future research at VA's Translational Research Center for traumatic brain injury and stress disorders to provide better understanding of and improved treatment options for post-9/11 veterans with traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder. This section is based on S. 3293, the Post-9/11 Veterans' Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 118.
- **Sec. 509. Study on efficacy of clinical and at-home resources for post-traumatic stress disorder.** This section mandates that not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of VA, through VA's Office of Research and Development, shall conduct a study on the efficacy of clinical and at-home resources, such as mobile applications like COVID Coach, for providers, veterans, caregivers, and family members to use for dealing with stressors; the feasibility and advisability of developing more such resources; strategies for improving mental health care and outcomes for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder; and best practices for helping family members of veterans deal with secondary post-traumatic stress disorder or mental health concerns. This section is based on S. 3293, the Post-9/11 Veterans' Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which DAV supported in accordance with 2021–2022 DAV Resolution No. 118.