



## Legislative Goals for 2023–2024

Each year, DAV members gather at our national convention to decide the organization's legislative goals. These targeted issue areas serve as guideposts for DAV's legislative team in Washington, D.C., who works tirelessly to enact laws that will touch the lives of disabled veterans and their families, caregivers and survivors.

In 2023, DAV members submitted many resolutions that help shape the year's advocacy agenda.

This partial list of key resolutions adopted in 2023 will focus DAV advocacy efforts until the 2024 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Phoenix. To see the full list of resolutions, visit [dav.la/3ol](https://dav.la/3ol).

“Our stance on legislative issues is determined by our 1 million members.

With a united, engaged voice, **we protect our benefits and fight to ensure the promise is kept.**”

—National Legislative Director Joy Ilem

## What is DAV?

DAV empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It is dedicated to a single purpose: keeping our promise to America's veterans. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them, fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill, providing employment resources to veterans and their families, and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. DAV, a nonprofit organization with more than 1 million members, was founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932.

## Stay Informed Through DAV CAN

Sign up for DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) at [davcan.org](https://davcan.org), and we will keep you up to date on issues that affect veterans and their families, survivors and caregivers.



# 2023–2024 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

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**DAV**<sup>®</sup>  
KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO  
AMERICA'S VETERANS

## 2023-2024 Legislative Goals

### Disability Compensation and Other Benefits

- Support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans disability compensation for all veterans.
- Support meaningful claims and appeals reform.
- Support legislation to increase disability compensation.
- Increase the grant and specially adaptive equipment rates for automobiles and other conveyances for eligible disabled veterans.
- Oppose reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans benefits.
- Support legislation to provide service connection for disabling conditions resulting from toxic and environmental exposures.
- Support legislation to protect total disability based on Individual Unemployability benefits and ensure it remains available for all eligible veterans regardless of age or receipt of any other federal benefits.
- Support legislation for studies and establishing presumptive diseases related to PFAS exposure.
- Support legislation to improve and reform Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.
- Support legislation to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs Fiduciary Program.
- Support legislation to reform and improve Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance.
- Increase the Home Improvement and Structural Alterations Grant.
- Support legislation that prohibits Special Separation Benefit payments from being withheld from VA disability compensation payments.
- Support an increase in the VA burial allowance for service-connected disabled veterans, and provide automatic annual adjustments.

### Medical and Health Care Services

- Support program improvement and enhanced resources for VA mental health programs and suicide prevention.
- Support enhanced medical services and benefits for women veterans.
- Support equity in access to services and benefits for racial and ethnic minority service-connected disabled veterans.
- Provide comprehensive dental care to all service-connected disabled veterans within the VA health care system.
- Enhance long-term services and supports for service-connected disabled veterans.
- Strengthen and protect the VA health care system.
- Ensure a safe, secure and effective electronic health record for veterans that allows the VA to fulfill core missions of patient care, research and training.
- Support effective recruitment, retention and development of the VA health care system workforce.
- Ensure timely access to quality VA health care and medical services.
- Support legislation to provide comprehensive support services for caregivers of severely wounded, ill and injured veterans from all eras.
- Support VA research into the medical efficacy of cannabis for treatment of service-connected disabled veterans.
- Support humane, consistent pain management programs in the veterans health care system.
- Support VA medical and prosthetic research programs.
- Support legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and Department of Defense health care copayments for service-connected disabled veterans.

### General Issues

- Support sufficient, timely and predictable funding for all VA programs, benefits and services.
- Support elimination of employment licensure and certification barriers that impede the transfer of military occupations to the civilian labor market.
- Provide adequate funding and permanency for veterans employment and training programs.
- Protect veterans from employment discrimination when receiving health care for service-connected conditions.
- Account for those still missing and the repatriate of the remains of those who died while serving our nation.
- Support legislation to strengthen and protect Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses.
- Support legislation to create, improve and reform federal programs for service-disabled veteran entrepreneurship.
- Support the continued growth of Veterans Treatment Courts for justice-involved veterans.
- Support veterans' preference in public employment.
- Support fair air travel for disabled veterans.

