

Coalition of Veterans Organizations

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Who we are

CVO—the Coalition of Veterans Organizations—consists of active veterans' organizations fighting for Veterans' healthcare and benefits. Our primary focus is free, universal healthcare for all veterans and mandatory funding of VA Healthcare.

What we are doing right now

Mandatory Funding: 1) There will be a referendum on Mandatory Funding on the February 5, 2008 ballot for the whole county. Our job is to make sure voters know about the issue and vote for it. 2) Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn is working to get the same referendum on every Illinois county ballot. Our job is to make sure that happens and then educate the voters.

What we want you and/or your organization to do

▶ Have a CVO speaker at your meeting. ▶ Educate your membership on Mandatory Funding. ▶ Help educate voters about Mandatory Funding. ▶ Join CVO and attend our meetings. ▶ Support CVO financially. ▶ Help us do mailings and make telephone contacts.

Our issues

Mandatory VA Healthcare Funding: Currently, VA healthcare is funded through a process that requires Congressional debate every year. This means that the VA healthcare budget is a political football tossed back and forth year after year. Over the last five years, a movement has grown to make VA healthcare funding what is called an "entitlement." In Congressional jargon, an entitlement is something that is automatically funded unless Congress takes action, the exact opposite of what happens now. Instead of being an annual political football, VA healthcare would be funded by a formula. The formula would include a) a one-time increase in VA healthcare funding to the proper level, b) a yearly count of the number of veterans to be served, c) an estimate of the exact cost of caring for each veteran, and d) a yearly factor for increases in healthcare costs.

Eligibility: Free, universal healthcare for all veterans! We believe veterans have already paid for their healthcare. VA healthcare should be provided to every veteran who served, regardless of whether they were active, reserve or national guard, without further charge.

World War II Filipino Veterans Benefits: Filipino Veterans of World War II were inducted into the US Army and served in one of the worst theaters of war, including the Bataan Death March. They have been denied VA benefits for more than 60 years. This injustice must be reversed.

Amend the Per Diem Grant to allocate funding to each state annually to care for their homeless Veterans: Currently each year grant proposals from all over the nation are submitted for approval. Only a small number of states are awarded funds. This process fails to meet the needs of more than half the nation's homeless Veterans.

VA Mental Health Planning and Budgeting Initiatives: In 2006, the VA failed to utilize about \$42 million it had in the crucial area of mental healthcare. In 2005, the amount was \$12 million. The VA must be held to stricter accountability in fully utilizing funds allocated for Veterans' healthcare, particularly in the mental health arena.

How to contact us

You can contact us at the above address, at info@CoalitionofVets.org and at 773-243-2335.

Checks and Money Orders should be made out to "VU CVO" and will be acknowledged. All our finances are going through VU—Veterans for Unification. VU is a member of CVO and is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations to CVO are tax deductible.