

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, MAY, 2019

by
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1. As of this writing, there are now 50 cosponsors for H. R. 96, that would require the VA to treat dental care the same as other medical specialties. With one exception (Cong. Reed, NY), all of the cosponsors for H. R. 4556 (predecessor bill in the previous congress) who are still in congress, have signed on to the new bill. We still need more cosponsors, so do whatever you can.

We are tied with CA for the state with the most cosponsors at 10 each.

We were waiting for the DAV to do one of their mass emailings to promote the bill. It finally came, but we did not get the bump in the number of cosponsors that we expected. We have only one more cosponsor than we had in last month's report.

2. The America's Heroes Group program, that airs Saturdays on WVON (AM 1690), is now two hours long (1600-1800). On May 4, Mark Weiman and I were interviewed in the last half hour. It went very well.

I have been suggesting that they have congressmen as guests, esp. those who have not cosponsored H. R. 96, and this time, they agreed. At this point Lauren Underwood is the one we want, because she is on the Veterans Affairs Committee.

4. On April 24, the Cook County Board was supposed to vote on a resolution, similar to the one passed by the Chicago City Council, to urge the Illinois Congressional Delegation to support H. R. 96. It was delayed until May 23, and I will testify in support of it.

5. We have been notified that H. R. 96 will not be acted upon this year, because the VA is doing a study on dental care for vets. Mark Weiman will try to find out who is involved, so that we can get our inputs to the right people. We anticipate that if we don't get involved, that the VA will only consider the cost of dental care and not the amount that would be saved by not having to treat for other preventable diseases.