

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, JULY, 2019

by

Larry E. Nazimek

1. As of this writing, there are now 55 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 sent Dr. Patricia E. Arola, the VA's Asst. Under Secretary for Health for Dentistry, the various links and attachments that lay out our position. We are gathering more articles and will send them to her shortly. We will then ask her about any VA reports or inputs to Congress on this bill.

2. On April 25, I testified before the Cook County Board in support of a resolution, similar to the one passed by the Chicago City Council, to urge the Illinois Congressional Delegation to support H. R. 96. The Board approved it at their last meeting. It should have happened sooner, but it somehow was routed to the wrong committee. They are sending me a copy of it, which I will spam out.

3. On June 24, Mark Weiman was the guest on the American Legion-Harold Washington Post's cable program. It went extremely well.

4. Mark Weiman recently spoke directly with Cong. John Shimkus, who said they would take a look at the bill. He told Mark the staffer to whom he should direct our information.

5. The State still hasn't published the new Illinois Handbook of Government or the Illinois Blue Book, but I keep checking. I was told by the Secy. Of State's Office that the Blue Book would be out in August, so when that happens, I will order a copy and put out the word on how you can get one for yourself. This is a hard-cover expensive book, so I can not order it in quantity.

As for the Illinois Handbook of Government, it will be released a year later, just like the last one. This does not make any sense, because there will only be a few months before the new officials are sworn in. Common sense would dictate that both should be released as soon as the information is available, like now. I will keep checking, and when the book is out, I will order a bunch to pass out. Your tax dollars at work!

6. I am working with our distinguished Webmaster on Certificates of Appreciation that we can give to those who do a good job for vets. I will get them out to you in a few days. When you show your appreciation to someone who helps us, it not only lets them know that what they do is appreciated, but it also encourages them to keep helping.