

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, NOV, 2019

by

Larry E. Nazimek

1. As of this writing, there are now 65 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.
 2. State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, a Marine vet, introduced HRJ 84 on 9-17-19, a resolution urging the IL Congressional Delegation to cosponsor/support HR 96. This is patterned after the resolution passed by the Cook County Board. I had asked her to do this, at the direction of Acting IDVA Dir. Linda Chapa LaVia. Please contact your State Rep./Senator to request that they cosponsor this. It is currently in the Rules Committee, but it should be addressed in Jan. I am personally in contact with Kifowit on this.
 3. Nothing to report at this time concerning getting interns from DePaul, but we're still working on it.
 4. The JBVAMC Stakeholders meeting was held on Nov. 13, followed by a retirement ceremony for Dir. Marc Magill. Ginny Narsete attended.
 5. Cong. Lauren Underwood held a Town Hall meeting in Oswego on Nov. 16. Patricia DeVore (Veterans Smile program Founder/Chairperson) attended, but it was crowded, and she was unable to get a chance to speak. Underwood recently put out an email about all the things that she is doing for veterans, but she still hasn't signed on as a cosponsor for H. R. 96. She is important for this one, because she is on the Veterans Affairs Committee.
- State Sen. Jim Oberweis is opposing her in next year's election. Some years ago, when he was running for the U. S. Sen., he came to one of our Saturday meetings at Montford Point.
6. When some company or organization does something good for vets, it's a good idea to thank them with a CVO Certificate of Appreciation. It may get us some publicity or even a donation. For example, my dentist gives free exams/cleanings/fillings on Veterans Day, so I gave him a certificate. They had me take a picture with him and the Certificate, and they will be making a press release (which, at the most, will get into a local newspaper). CVO is not a "household word," and we definitely need to get our name out.