

Coalition of Veterans Organizations

**CVO**



*Leave No  
Veteran Behind*

# **VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT**

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, April, 2022

by

Larry E. Nazimek

1. In the past reports, I have listed various bills concerning veterans that we are supporting, even though there were no changes since the last report. Since we all have enough reading material, if there are no changes, I will omit them. Anyone who wants to see the previous report, however, can ask me for it.

Bills that we are tracking include:

H. R. 914 and S. 3017: Dental Care for Veterans.

S. 1779/H. R. 3452: Veterans Preventive Health Coverage Fairness Act.

H. R. 617/S. 399: No Coronavirus Co-pays for Veterans Act.

H. R. 845: VA Billing Accountability Act.

H. R. 5721: VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act of 2021.

S. 3020: Veterans State Eligibility Standardization Act.

2. H. R. 914 has 52 co-sponsors, of which 3 are Republicans, including Jefferson Van Drew and Paul Gosar, who were dentists in their prior lives. 11 co-sponsors are from IL, while CA and NY, with the second highest, each have 5. The IL congressmen we still need are Foster, Schneider, and all 5 Republicans.

3. S. 3854/H. R. 6823: Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2022. The Senate bill has 3 co-sponsors (none from IL), and the House bill has 18 (Underwood is only one from IL).

4. H. R. 7524: ACES Act. It has 8 co-sponsors, none from IL. It will provide for additional investigation to determine the extent that aircrews of fighter aircraft and ground crews have a greater incidence of various cancers and to identify which ones. Earlier data shows this to be the case. It will be similar to studies that have determined the problems with the Burn Pits.

5. H. R. 3967: Honoring Our PACT Act of 2021. I just passed the House and is going to the Senate.

6. The American Institute of Dental Public Health wrote an excellent letter to Sens. Jon Tester (D MT,-Committee Chair) and Jerry Moran (R KS, Ranking Minority Member) of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee that showed the need for dental care for veterans. In it, they presented statistics on problems experienced by veterans compared to the non-veteran population. Many organizations, including CVO, signed on, although the American Legion did not.

Their website has even more statistics, including a cost analysis of the cost for dental care and the money that would be saved by not having to treat other related diseases.

7. The Eye on Veterans runs short podcasts on CBS radio stations. They recently ran one in which they called out congressmen who did not support the legislation in question, and specifically called out a former Navy SEAL. After a great deal of effort, I was finally able to contact the program, mentioning the way so many congressmen and senators are not supporting the effort for dental care for vets. They will do a podcast on that in the distant (because they have a great deal of topics on their schedule) future.

8. WTTW's "Chicago Tonight" is considering doing a segment on dental care for veterans, after I showed them the AIDPH letter.
9. I was on WVON's "America's Heroes Group" radio program on April 2 to discuss the progress, or lack thereof, on the dental bills. This came after I emailed them the AIDPH letter. They will have a segment in the future with the Exec. Director of the AIDPH. Some time in the future, they will also interview Patricia Devore of the Veteran Smiles organization.
10. I also emailed the AIDPH letter to WBBM-TV, that recently did a segment about this issue, and they said that they will do a segment in the future.