

Coalition of Veterans Organizations

**CVO**

*Leave No  
Veteran Behind*

# **VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT**

PREPARED BY  
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by

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1. Future JBVAMC Town Hall Meetings will be tentatively held on March 14, June 13, Sept. 12, and a CBOC Town Hall Meeting on Aug. 8. There will be a Women's Health Town Hall meeting on April 14. Future Town Hall Meetings dealing with Women's Health and Mental Health will be scheduled.
2. S. 10 VA Careers Act of 2023: Legislation to bolster efforts to recruit and retain strong clinical and managerial leadership in the VA health care system and make other important improvements to attract clinicians in scarce medical specialties. It has 2 co-sponsors, none from IL.
3. S. 42 Build for Veterans Act of 2023: This infrastructure bill has 4 co-sponsors, none from IL.
4. There are no bills for dental care so far. A staffer of Sen. Bernie Sanders asked me for my comments on a bill they are planning to introduce. This bill would be a trial program to give dental care to veterans with heart or kidney disease. Dental care will prevent a lot of heart and kidney diseases, so it does not make sense to wait until veterans already have these diseases to grant them dental care. It would be ridiculous to start smoking, drinking heavily, putting on lots of weight, avoiding exercise, etc. in order to get these diseases. We want dental care to be treated like the other medical specialties, so I said that we would not support such legislation. He replied that they would introduce the same bill they had last year, if we would find a Republican Senator to co-introduce it.

Another factor here, is that as more, but not all, veterans become eligible for dental care, fewer veterans will be ineligible for it, and that would diminish efforts to have dental care treated like the other medical specialties.

The American Inst. For Dental Public Health will have a major effort, not only in D. C., but will also be asking everyone else to make calls and get involved, March 27-28. We are waiting for specific instructions from them as to what they want us to do.

5. The American Legion has published their Legislative Agenda for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. Unfortunately, dental care is not mentioned.
6. The Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County and the Hines VAMC are hosting a Veterans Resource Fair, Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 1000-1400, at the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center Auditorium (lower level), 1100 S. Hamilton Ave., Chicago, just a few blocks from the JBVAMC.
7. Walmart has medical centers at some of their stores. They recently opened one at 1716 N. Kilpatrick Ave., Chicago, 773-687-5284. This facility is state of the art. Their dental clinic has a device that makes crowns in 2 hours! They give hearing tests at no charge, by appt. only. They also have state of the art equipment. Obviously, they hope to sell hearing aids to those who need them. If you must make co-pays for your VA healthcare, you can save \$50 by getting your ears checked here instead of the VA.