

Coalition of Veterans Organizations

CVO

*Leave No
Veteran Behind*

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

PREPARED BY
LARRY E. NAZIMEK



MAY 2023

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1. In reporting legislation that has been introduced, the same bills and writeups from the previous month will be repeated, with new bills or changes in **boldface**.

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 **7** 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. S.141: Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act: It expands the program for home care. It has **16** co-sponsors, none from IL.

5. **Cong Julia Brownley introduced H. R. 2413: Dental Care for Veterans Act, the same as H. R. 96 and H. R. 914. It has 2 co-sponsors, both from IL (Garcia, Quigley) and Schakowsky indicated she would.**

I can email you the letters that I send (one for those who previously co-sponsored and one for those who have not) so you can use it.

Brownley's Office has not sent a "Dear Colleagues" letter (asking other congressmen to co-sponsor), but if she does, I will spam it out.

The American Inst. For Dental Public Health is sending a letter to the heads of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Cmtes., and we were one of the many vet groups to sign on. When I get a finalized copy with all the organizations listed, I will spam it out. It should be an attachment to letters to cong.

6. There have been changes to the congressional delegations and the district maps (gerrymandering). We need to establish good relations with them. It's a two-way street, where we can approach them with questions/requests, and they can come to us with questions.

The IL Congressional Delegation:

<https://www.congress.gov/members?q=%7B%22congress%22%3A118%2C%22member-state%22%3A%22Illinois%22%7D>

7. On May 1, I went to the office of Cong. Delia Ramirez, who is on the Veterans Affairs Cmte., to meet with Deputy Chief of Staff Luis Carrizales and (via video) DC Legislative Asst. Marina Sanget. They will analyze H. R. 2413 to decide what they will do. We expect to meet with Ramirez some time in the future.

8. Sen. Bernie Sanders's office asked us to endorse legislation he is introducing. We are honored to have been contacted for this, and we agreed.

The Veterans Affairs Income Eligibility Standardization Act reduces the complexity of eligibility in Priority Group 8 and opens the aperture for more veterans to access care by requiring the secretary to eliminate all subcategories of Priority Group 8 and ensure veterans eligible for Priority Group 8 can enroll

in VA health care.

The National Guard Health care Access and Expansion Act will ensure that members of the National Guard and Reserve have the health care needed to maintain force readiness by allowing them to access care through the Department of Veterans Affairs when not on active orders.

9. Veterans and Family Advisory Council:

My suggestion that the inpatient toiletry packet should include a comb has been accepted.

Prior to the PANDemIC, there would be opportunities for vets at JBVAMC to do simple wills. I suggested that this be brought back. It won't, but at our last meeting (May 12), we learned that we can meet with someone from the Center for Disabled and Elder Law, at various locations, by calling 312-376-1880, M-F 9-12 to make an appt. I have requested a brochure, and when I get it, it will be spammed out.

I complained that vets with Community Care appts at Northwestern can't go to the Lakeside CBOC for a parking validation paper. One bureaucrat said that the parking lot was too small, so I took photos to show them how huge the lot is. They are now trying to see if we can get the parking. If there was sufficient parking back when the Lakeside Hospital existed, there should be more than ample parking spaces now.