

Coalition of Veterans Organizations

CVO

*Leave No
Veteran Behind*

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

PREPARED BY
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JULY 2023

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by

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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 9 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 **22** co-sponsors, none from IL. H. R. 542 (House version) has **59** co-sponsors, 3 from IL (Underwood, Budzinski, Schakowsky).

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 **6** co-sponsors, 5 from IL (Garcia, Quigley, Schakowsky, Underwood, **Krishnamoorthi**).

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, or if you give me the email address of a congressman's DC staffer who handles veterans issues, I can email it, but if they don't co-sponsor, you can call them 2 weeks later.

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.

The AIDPH held a "Day of Action" in March, where people were invited to go to DC to meet with congressmen as well as a virtual option, where people were asked to call congressional offices.

They will be having a "Virtual Hill Day" Sept. 12-13, where people are asked to register with them to meet with congressmen via Zoom/Teams. I previously spammed out their July newsletter that provided a detailed explanation. They want people to register by August 1. This is so that they can organize who will be meeting with who. If you want me to forward their July newsletter, just ask.

<https://web.cvent.com/event/5d17caf9-778c-4116-91a7-d55e4d7264c3/regProcessStep1>

6. H. R. 2410: VET CARE Act of 2023: It establishes a pilot program for dental care, but it's essentially the same thing as the previous one that we never got. It has 7 co-sponsors, none from IL.

7. For local congressmen, we need "ambassadors," who will meet with the local congressional staffers who handle veterans issues, in order to establish and maintain a working relationship.

The IL Congressional Delegation:

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

8. Veterans and Family Advisory Council (monthly meetings):

The JBVAMC computer room (4th Floor, Taylor Bldg.) was closed when the PANdemIC began. They never reopened it, and the room is now being used for a different purpose. I have been asking about this for a long time. We were told that construction is taking place, and a computer room will be part of it. There is, however, a possibility of getting an existing room, and an IT guy said that he would be glad to install the computers.

A computer room is important for veterans who do not have internet access at home, or who have access, but no printer. Computers are needed for filling out forms, working on resumes, applying for jobs, etc.