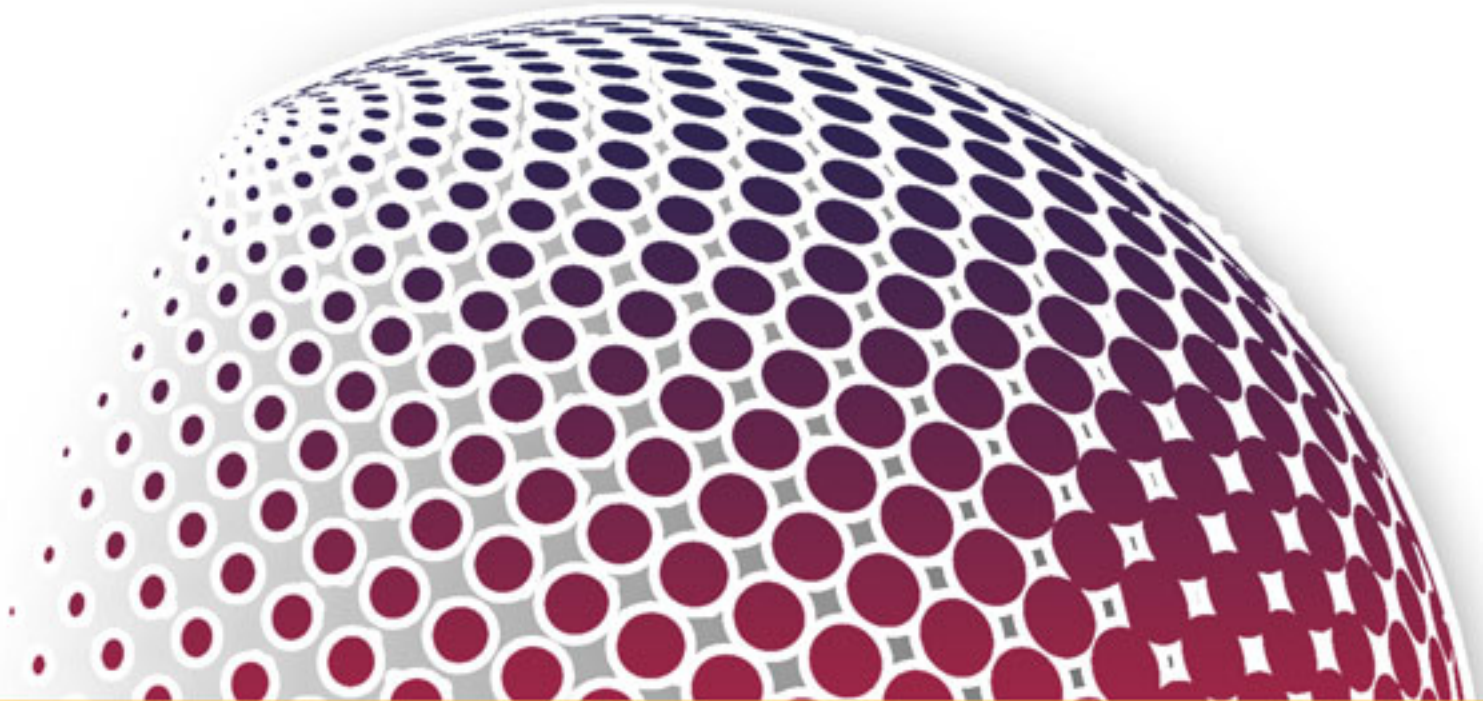


Coalition of Veterans Organizations



# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

## JANUARY 2025



PREPARED BY **LARRY E. NAZIMEK**

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by  
Larry E. Nazimek

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**. The new Congress was recently sworn in, so at this point, however, there is no new legislation. Everything starts from scratch for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

2. S.141: Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act: It expands the program for home care. It passed and was signed by Pres. Biden.

3. The Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act apparently expired in 1998, although the VA has been funded ever since. Vivek Ramaswamy, who is working with Elon Musk on the Dept. of Government Efficiency, wants to eliminate funding for this and other things for which their funding legislation has expired. We want to prevent this.

4. We do not yet know who will serve on the Veterans Affairs Committees, but we should know shortly.

5. Veterans and Family Advisory Council (JBVAMC monthly meetings): I spam out the “tracker,” where action items are listed, along with their status, and the other attachments that accompany the meeting information.

At the Dec. meeting, I once again brought up the need for making the JBVAMC Pharmacy more efficient for in-person pickups. Our guest speaker, Emily Kalusetsky, Outpatient Pharmacy Supervisor, stated that before a prescription is dispensed, a pharmacist must check that it will not conflict with other prescriptions that the patient is taking and must check that it is not too early for the particular refill. This is also done for online or telephone requests for refills, but the patient is not aware of it as is the case with in-person refills.

6. VACCC: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 25, at 1900, at the Hines VAMC, following a resource fair. CVO is not a VACCC member, because we are not federally chartered. We were one of two veteran organizations in Illinois to apply for a state charter, but neither applications were successful. Nevertheless, the meetings are open to the public, and anyone can speak for 3 minutes. If anyone from CVO will attend, please tell me.

7. Chicago drivers are required to post the “City Sticker” on their windshields. Veterans get the sticker at no charge, while others must pay for it. For renewals, however, veterans must do the renewal process in person at a City Clerk’s Office, while others who must pay, may do so online. We unsuccessfully tried to get this changed, but the City Clerk’s Office is concerned about the possibility of fraud, such as when a veteran dies and his family applies as though he was still alive.

We are working with Alderman Gilbert Villegas's Office to get him to introduce legislation to change this. They were recently busy with the budget controversy, but will get on it.

8. The VA News reported that Non-Ventilator Associated Hospital Acquired Pneumonia (NV-HAP) is one of the most common infections in hospitals and accounts for 60% of hospital acquired pneumonia cases nationwide. Hospital Acquired Pneumonia Prevention by Engaging Nurses (HAPPEN) is a program that supports the prevention of NV-HAP. It started at the Salem VAMC and is allegedly being done at all VA hospitals. I am trying to find out exactly what is being done locally. It was brought up at the Jan. VFAC meeting. The head of nursing at JBVAMC will be contacted to get an answer.