

Coalition of Veterans Organizations

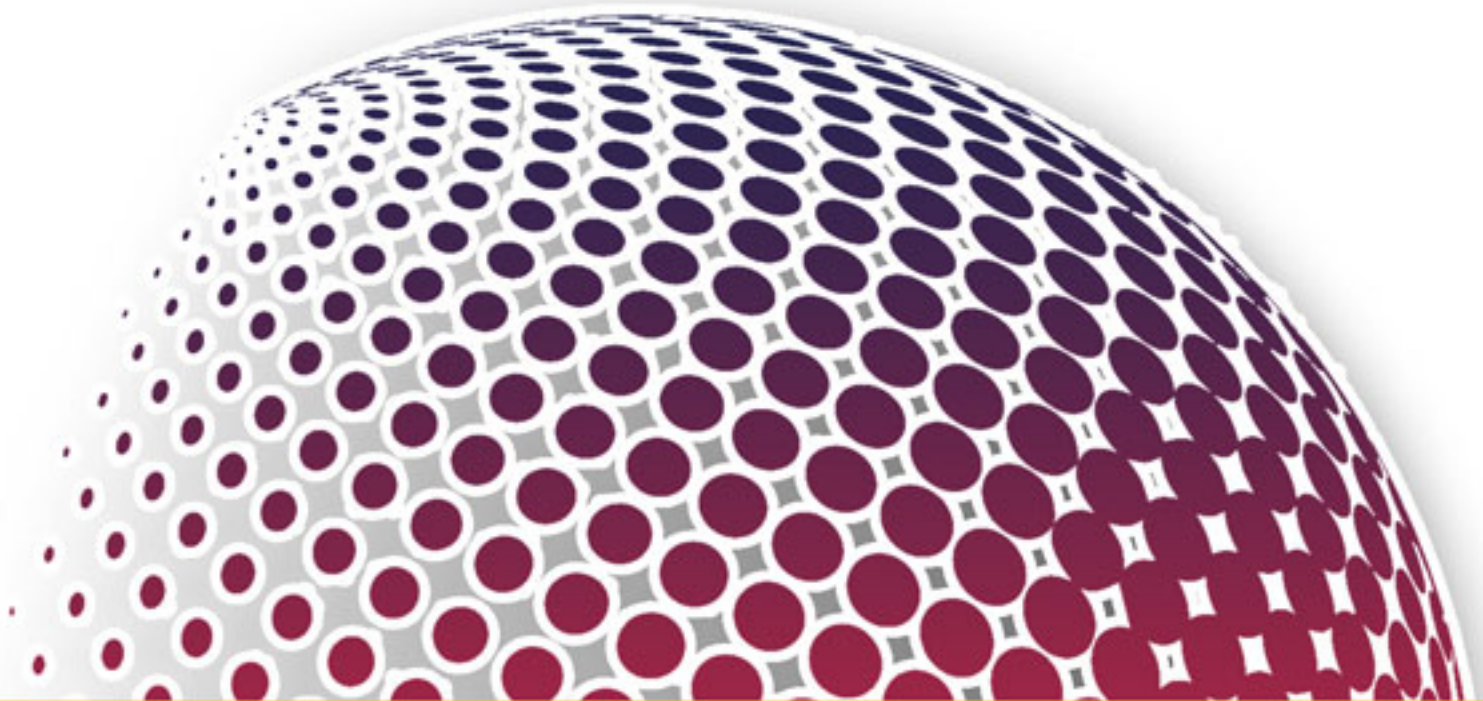
CVO



*Leave No
Veteran Behind*

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 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 we don't have much to report on. Everything starts from scratch for the 119th Congress. The DAV has not been issuing many legislative alerts lately.

2. The Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act apparently expired in 1998, although the VA has been funded ever since. Elon Musk and the Dept. of Government Efficiency want to cut back funding for this and other things for which their funding legislation has expired. We want to prevent this.

3. H. R. 210: Dental Care for Veterans Act, has **46** cosponsors, all D. There are 8 from IL (Ramirez, Garcia, Casten, Quigley, Krishnamoorthi, Kelly, Budzinski, Jackson). **Those from IL who have not cosponsored are all R and Davis, Schakowsky, Schneider, Foster, Underwood, and Sorensen.**

4. S. 124/H. R. 472: Restore VA Accountability Act of 2025: This Act would make it easier to fire VA employees, making things easier for DOGE. S. 124 has 16 cosponsors, all R. H. R. 472 has 26 cosponsors, all R. The bill was introduced by Mike Bost (R-IL). There are no cosponsors from IL. We oppose these bills.

5. H. R. 530: ACES Act: This bill would require the VA to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study and report on the prevalence and mortality of cancers among veterans who served on active duty as aircrew members and regularly flew in fixed-wing aircraft. This bipartisan act has 26 cosponsors, none from IL.

6. The VA has ordered JBVAMC to cease outreach efforts where employees would go to some Chicago ward offices on a scheduled basis to meet with veterans. We are working with our congressmen to fight this, and other VA cutbacks.

7. There have been some calls through social media for veterans to protest at VA hospitals and state capitols. The problem with these is that there is little, if any, coordination with the local protests, so there may be people who show up, without signs, and wonder where they are supposed to meet and who is in charge. An employee at JBVAMC noted that there were some veterans in front of the hospital, but she couldn't determine what they were doing there. In order to have an event on city streets, you must have a permit. We anticipate that there will be organized protests in the future.

8. 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.

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. I again brought up at the March VFAC meeting. The head of nursing at JBVAMC will be contacted to get an answer and will probably be a guest speaker at a future meeting.

9. VACCC: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 25, at 1900, at the Hines VAMC. 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.