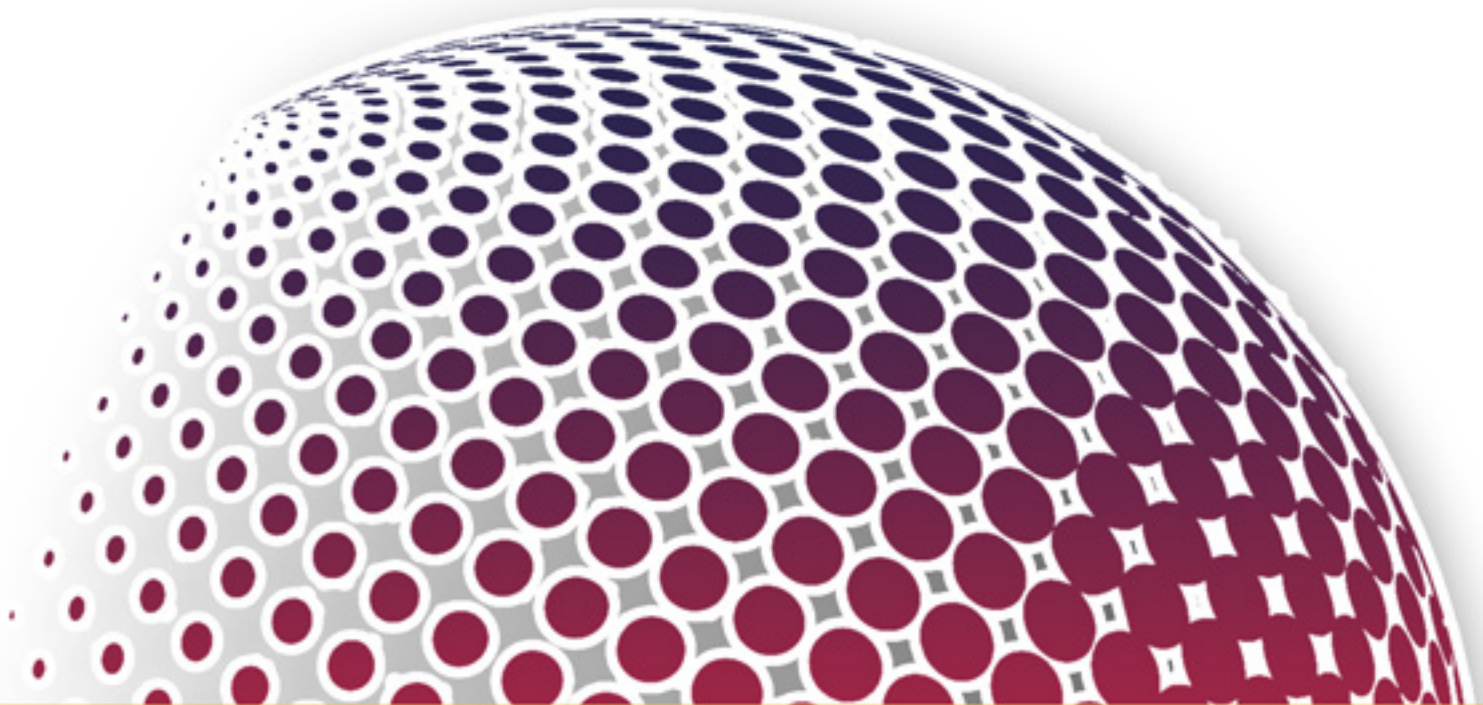


Coalition of Veterans Organizations



# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

## APRIL 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 119<sup>th</sup> Congress. The DAV has not been issuing many legislative alerts lately.

**2. H. R. 1391: Student Veteran Benefit Restoration Act of 2025, would require the VA to restore education benefits to veterans who were enrolled in a program that was shut down. There are 10 cosponsors, all D. The bill was re-introduced by Cong. Ramirez, and IL cosponsors include Schakowsky, Budzinski, and Garcia.**

3. H. R. 210: Dental Care for Veterans Act, has **47** 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 **17** cosponsors, all R. H. R. 472 has **27** cosponsors, all R. The bill was introduced by Mike Bost (R-IL). There are no cosponsors from IL for either bill. 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 **30** cosponsors, none from IL.

6. On March 28, there was a protest against the cutbacks that was organized by the National Nurses United across from the main entrance of JBVAMC. This protest, unlike many others, was well-organized. Cong. Jesus Garcia was one of the speakers, and it got heavy media coverage. Nurses have not been fired, because of DOGE, but other things are being cut, and this affects them and their ability to serve veterans. Some 80,000 VA employees (1/3 of whom are veterans) will lose their jobs. We will remain in contact with the NNU.

7. 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. I asked if there are being cutbacks at JBVAMC. Acting Asst. Dir. Michelle Angarita replied that we don't know yet what cutbacks will take place, but that won't take happen until June.

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 this up at the April VFAC meeting. The head of nursing at JBVAMC has been contacted to get an answer and will probably be a guest speaker at a future meeting.

8. VACCC: The next meeting will be in June, 25, but we have no further information. They now have a VSO and will be getting more. They will be getting a satellite office in River Grove, thanks to Cong. Ramirez.

9. I sent an April 3 letter to VA Secy Collins regarding to dental care. I requested that he reply to us and not, like his predecessor, pass the buck to VISN-12, who, in turn, passed it to JBVAMC.