

Coalition of Veterans Organizations

CVO



*Leave No
Veteran Behind*

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

PREPARED 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 8 co-sponsors, none from IL.

4. S.141: Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act: It expands the program for home care. It has **24** co-sponsors, none from IL. H. R. 542 (House version) has **66** co-sponsors, **4** from IL (Underwood, Budzinski, Schakowsky, **Ramirez**).

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 **9** co-sponsors, **7** from IL (Garcia, Quigley, Schakowsky, Underwood, Krishnamoorthi, Casten, Jackson).

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.

Willie Mack attended Town Hall meetings with Cong. Danny Davis and Robin Kelly, where he brought up this bill. The audience was in agreement, and the cong both said that they would co-sponsor, as they did on the previous bills. We are still waiting, but are hopeful.

The AIDPH held a "Virtual Hill Days" Sept. 12-13, where people were asked to register to meet (via zoom or MS Teams) with senators/congressmen or their staffers. They also had informational sessions.

6. **H. R. 2410: VET CARE Act of 2023: It establishes a pilot program for dental care, but it's only for those with diabetes who are 40-70 years old. It has 9 co-sponsors, none from IL. We are not supporting this bill.**

7. **H. R. 1767: Bill to restore GI Bill education benefits to defrauded student veterans. It was introduced by Cong. Delia Ramirez (IL) and has 16 co-sponsors, 2 from IL (Schakowsky, Budzinski).**

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

We are still working to get a computer room for veteran use at JBVAMC. It 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. We are now told that it will be in a new building being built in the vicinity of the commercial area on NW corner of Ogden/Damen.

There are some places at JBVAMC where the WiFi is not very strong, and this matter is being addressed. If you are aware of any such points, we are now told to call 855-559-5784, the number on the “Guest Wireless Now Available” paper with the info on the WiFi.

I proposed that we hire a massage therapist. There are many soft tissue injuries that can best be treated with a massage therapist. It was well-received.

9. A Town Hall Meeting was held via telephone on Sept. 12. These meetings allow participants to ask questions, and if they do not get to your question, you can leave a voicemail message at the end, and a Patient Advocate will look into the matter and call you back with an answer.