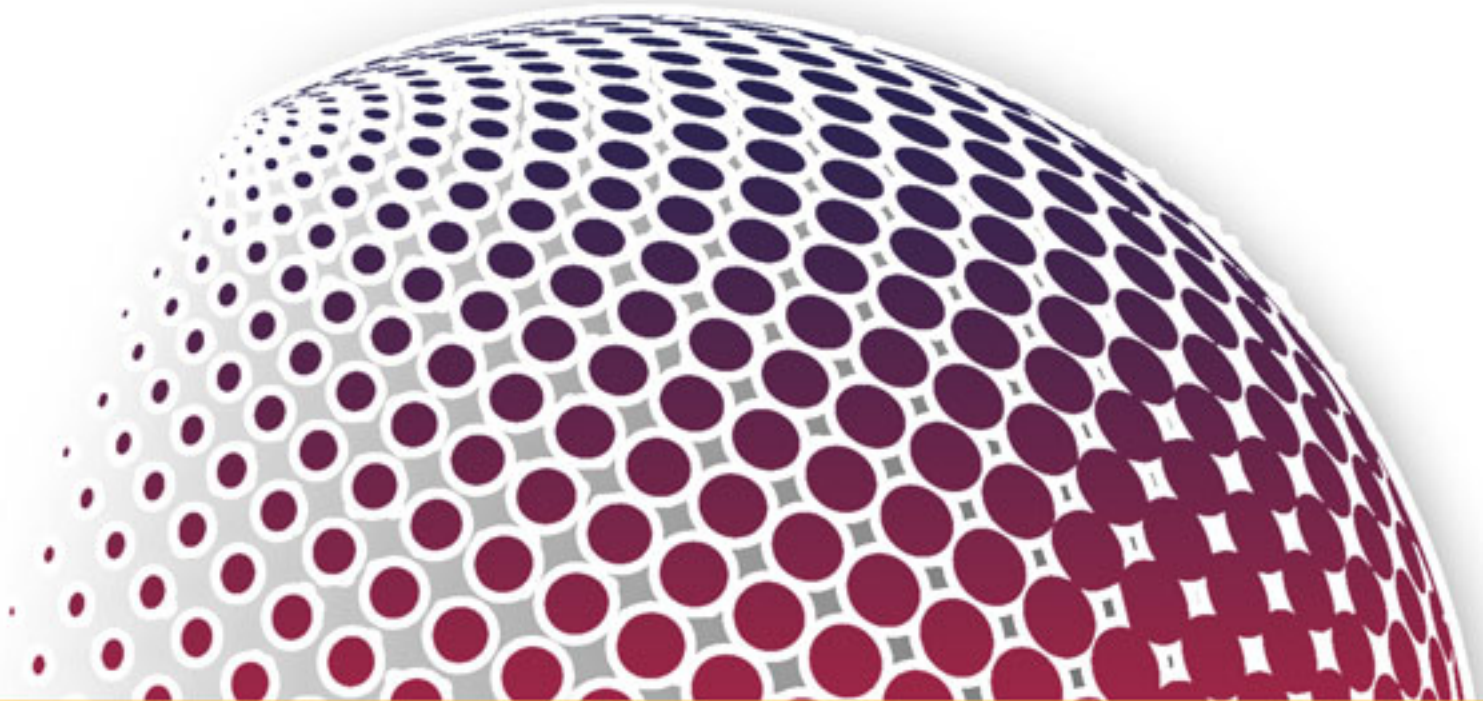


Coalition of Veterans Organizations



VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 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. 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 52 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 34 cosponsors, none from IL.

6. H. R. 2970: National Veterans Advocate Act of 2025: It would establish the OH. ffice of the National Veterans Advocate. It was introduced by Cong. Rudy Yakym (R-IN) and has no cosponsors.

7. H. R. 3132: CHOICE (Certified Help Options in Claims Expertise for Veterans) for Veterans Act: This bill would allow attorneys and agents to charge ill and injured veterans fees of up to \$12,500 or the amount equal to five times the monthly benefits increase, whichever is less, and if the claim results are favorable.

Currently, veterans can choose accredited veterans service organizations, agents and attorneys who provide *free* claims assistance. These experts ensure veterans receive knowledgeable representation without sacrificing any of their earned benefits. H.R. 3132 weakens accreditation requirements, letting individuals assist veterans before meeting full

qualification standards. It has 13 co-sponsors, all Republicans, with Mike Bost as the only one from IL. We oppose this legislation.

8. S. 1068: Putting Veterans First Act: The bill would reinstate with backpay all veterans, military spouses, survivors, veteran caregivers and members of the Guard and Reserves—and all VA employees thus far—“illegally fired, demoted or suspended as part of the Trump administration’s mass terminations. It would further protect veterans in the civil service from being included in future mass terminations. It has 21 cosponsors, 20 D and 1 I (Bernie Sanders), with Tammy Duckworth the only one from IL.

9. S. 914: Protect Veterans Jobs Act: It would reinstate Veterans who were fired from their jobs as part of Donald Trump and Elon Musk’s indiscriminate purge of federal employees. It was introduced by Tammy Duckworth. It has 10 cosponsors (almost all of whom were initial cosponsors), all D, including Dick Durbin. H. R. 1637: It has 94 cosponsors, all D, 6 from IL 6 (Schakowsky, Sorensen, Schneider, Budzinski, Ramirez, Quigley).

10. 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 May 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.

11. The JBVAMC VFAC meeting for June was canceled.

12. VACCC: The next meeting will be on June, 24, 1900, at the Amer. Leg. Post 1941, 900 S. LaGrange Rd., La Grange. They will be getting a satellite office in River Grove, thanks to Cong. Ramirez.

13. I sent an April 3 letter to VA Secy Collins regarding 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. No reply has been received.

14. I spoke with Cook County Cmsr. Jessica Vasquez, and emailed her information, about the dental issue, mentioning that those who earned their healthcare by their service are getting less than those who earned them by unlawfully entering the U. S., thanks to County Care. She spoke with the Chief of Staff of Cmsr. Bill Lowry, the new chair of the Health and Hospitals Cmte., who is married to a dentist. He is out of the U. S., but we will meet later in June after he returns. Vasquez also spoke with Cmsr. Miller, Chief of the Veterans Affairs Cmte. We want to see if the County can provide veterans the dental care that the VA fails to provide.