

# Legislative Program

## 2023-2024

Department of NH VFW Auxiliary Legislative 2023-2024

Be An Advocate-Be Informed-Be Engaged

### November 2023 General Information

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you all were able to attend the fall conference last month. It was very informative and there were a lot of good suggestions provided by the chairs of each committee. Last month I provided some information on how to sign up for Action Corps, I hope that it was informative and that you were all able to join. This month we will explore the legislative branch more in depth. This is especially important this month because the candidates for the 2024 Presidential Election will be making it official. It is important that we pay close attention to each candidates platform to ensure they are running with our veterans and their families in mind. The legislative branch is made up of the House and Senate, collectively known as the Congress. Below are some specific duties of the legislature.

- Make all laws
- Declares war
- Regulates interstate and foreign commerce
- Controls Taxing
- Controls spending policies

As you can see the legislative branch holds a lot of power but the one most important to us is that they make all laws. Whenever a bill is introduced to the house that supports our veterans we rely on those candidates we put in office to ensure that those bills pass. If we do not get out there and vote our veterans could be left with members who do not support our military or their families.

Unfortunately with all the drama within Congress and electing a Speaker of the House not many bills that support our veteran were introduced, however, in September the following bills were introduced:

**H.R. 1774**, the VA Emergency Transportation Act, would reimburse veterans for the cost of emergency medical transportation to a federal facility by redefining emergency treatment as “services”—to include emergency treatment and emergency transportation. The bill would codify emergency transportation to mean transportation of a veteran by ambulance or air ambulance by a non-Department provider or a facility for emergency treatment; or from a non-Department facility where such veteran received emergency treatment to a Department or other federal facility. This legislation would expand access and eligibility to much needed service for reimbursement of emergency care related to ambulance transportation.

**H.R. 2818**, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act, would increase the amount of funding available to disabled veterans for improvements and structural alterations provided to them by the VA for home improvements related to their disability. This bipartisan legislation would increase the amount of funding for VA grants for disabled veterans to make necessary modifications to their homes to fit their needs, including wheelchair ramps, structural changes, medical equipment, and would adjust the amount to account for inflation.

**H.R. 4150/S. 1954**, The Improving Whole Health for Veterans with Chronic Conditions Act would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide dental care services to enrolled veterans diagnosed with diabetes and heart disease. These chronic conditions are closely linked with poor dental health and lack of dental care exacerbates these conditions, worsening their progression and increasing medical costs. However, only 15% of veterans are eligible for dental care through the VA health care system. Many of the remaining 85% of veterans who are not eligible for dental care struggle with access to affordable, quality dental care that meets their physical and oral health needs.

I took action on these bills and I hope you did as well. I will be back next month with more information regarding our legislative program.

Tammy L. Baker  
Department of NH VFW Auxiliary  
Legislative Chair 2023-2024