

Legislative Program

2023-2024

Department of NH VFW Auxiliary Legislative 2023-2024

Be An Advocate-Be Informed-Be Engaged

March General Information

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone has been enjoying their winter, luckily for most of us it has been a mild one. In last month's general information I informed you that this newsletter would contain all the Legislative Victories for Veterans as well as upcoming bills that require action be taken via Action Corp. I am glad to say there were quite a few that passed legislation, below I have provided information on the bills that are being introduced to Congress along with the number and name of the bill along with a brief description of how it helps our veterans and their families.

S. 1975, the Discharge Review Board Accountability Act, would require a study on the compliance of military discharge review boards to follow statutory requirements related to the application of "liberal consideration" during the decision process for certain conditions. Liberal consideration standards relate to a review of discharge status and requests for correction of military records based on mental health conditions to include post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), sexual assault or sexual harassment. The report must cover seven key areas in determining if discharge review boards are using the liberal consideration standards required in their decision-making process. This legislation, S. 1975, is in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 113, which calls for a more liberal review of other than honorable (OTH) military discharges for the purpose of eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services in cases where veterans may have been suffering with PTSD, traumatic brain injury, or experienced military sexual trauma or harassment.

H.R. 2413, the Dental Care for Veterans Act. This bill would require the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service, and defines a 4-year implementation plan beginning with veterans in Priority Groups 1 and 2 (veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 30% or more) in year one.

H.R. 3452, the Fred Hamilton Veterans' Lost Records Act, which would ensure veterans whose military records are lost by the U.S. government through no fault of their own can still receive their earned Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. After a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis destroyed the records of nearly 16 million veterans, VA established a regulatory process for those affected that allowed veterans whose records were lost to use the next closest medical record or a buddy statement to meet the burden of proof required for VA health care and benefits. S. 3452 would expand that process to all veterans whose records were lost by the VA or the Department of Defense.

S. 3526, the Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act, would require each VA medical center to create a lactation station for veterans who are nursing. As the number of women veterans using VA health care continues to grow, VA must ensure that it creates environments that are safe and welcoming to all veterans. This includes private, convenient and hygienic lactation stations that women can easily and safely access while they are obtaining the health care they have earned.

If you have not already taken action on the above bills please review your emails for any DAV items requesting you take action.

Do not forget local and town elections take place this month so keep an eye out for voting dates this month and please remember to get out and vote!!!



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