



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Maryland
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
August Mailing



Be Informed



Be an Advocate



Be Engaged

Be Informed: VFW Priority Goals

The National Legislative Service establishes the VFW's legislative priorities and advocates on behalf of our veterans. By testifying at Congressional Committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW has played an important role in veterans' legislation for over 100 years. Everything the VFW does is with the VFW's Priority Goals and America's veterans in mind.

The VFW Priority Goals for 2024 are:

- ✓ Budget
- ✓ Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance
- ✓ Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- ✓ Health Care
- ✓ Military Quality of Life
- ✓ National Security, Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA



Each VFW Priority Goal will be presented with details in the upcoming monthly mailings. Share each goal with your members at your Auxiliary meetings to keep them informed.

Be an Advocate: How to Contact Your Congressional Representatives

Advocating for our veterans and their families is an important part of our mission as an Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Contacting your congressional representatives to support legislation stressing points in the VFW Priority Goals, and opposing detrimental legislation, is an easy process.

To find your representatives:

- 1) Go online to votervoice.net/VFW/Address.
- 2) Click on "Find Your Legislators."
- 3) Enter your address.

You will see a list of your federal and state officials. Clicking on a name, you will find listed each representative's address, phone number, website location, and email address.

Let your voice be heard for our veterans by communicating with your elected representatives. As a veterans' service organization, every letter, email, phone call, fax, visit or petition sent to our representatives strengthens our voice as we continually fight for services and benefits for our veterans and their families.

Be Engaged: Project Ideas for Legislative Chairmen



- As Legislative Chairman, keep your members informed. Update them at your auxiliary meetings by:
 - Clarifying each of the Priority Goals.
 - Sharing updates from *Action Corps Weekly*
 - Discussing current priority legislation needing our attention by contacting our legislators.
- Encouraging all members to register to vote.
- Thinking ahead.....invite a local representative to your Veterans Day Observance to talk briefly about pending legislation affecting our veterans and their families. Be sure to take time to interact personally with the speaker to share your appreciation (or concern) of his/her support for veterans' issues.

Why is it important to be an advocate for our veterans?

Why is it important to contact your local and federal representatives? On a daily basis, our representatives make important decisions on local and national policy issues. We need to let our elected officials know when we strongly support or oppose certain pieces of legislation. The VFW Auxiliary's Legislative Program encourages our members to speak out for legislation affecting America's veterans and their families. Our representatives are accountable to their constituents – to each of us! By contacting them to voice our support or our dissatisfaction, we play an important role in holding our representatives accountable.

The number of veterans in Congress has steadily declined since the 1970's. This weakens the valuable insight of lawmakers who have served in our military and understand the challenges and needs of America's veterans from their own experiences. As the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, each of us needs to be an advocate for our veterans.



Please add your auxiliary number and month to your report file name if attached to an email
thanks

William Siperek, Department Chairman
2546 Lodge Forest Drive
Baltimore, MD 21219
410-274-1323
mdvfwaux.bills@gmail.com