



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Maryland
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
Chairman Linda Eberhart
November 2025



★ ★ Be An Advocate - Be Informed - Be Engaged ★ ★

The **Main Objectives of the Legislative Program** is to improve the lives of our veterans, service members, and their families. This can be done through *Advocacy*. Our efforts can influence lawmakers whose decisions will affect our veterans and their families every day.

There are 6 areas of concern:

- Budget
- Health Care
- Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- Education, Employment and Transition Assistance
- **Military Readiness**
- National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA

The focus of **Military Readiness** is to maintain a strong and ready all-volunteer force capable of protecting American interests, Congress and DOD must:

- Enhance quality of life and health care programs that allow service member to focus on the mission.
- Ensure equity of benefits for Reserve Component service members.
- End military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.
- Provide benefits enrollment for all transitioning service members.
- Eliminate sexual assault and harassment in the military.
- Increase military base pay comparability with private sector wages.
- Ensure that military housing and work spaces are safe and modern.
- Eliminate food insecurity in the military.

Play a Role in the Process - Engage and help ensure that these priority goals are enacted.

Our National Legislative Ambassador Amy Jo Lett has requested this be the year of Gratitude for our Veterans.

The Legislative Program Award for 2025/2026 will be based on this event

Thank you notes with Purpose * Have a note writing campaign with handwritten letters to thank our veterans. Include the QR code or links that direct them to the VFW Action Corp Weekly sign-up page or to the Priority Goals. <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts/vfw-action-corps-weekly> <https://www.vfw.org/legislativepriorities> If we educate our veterans, we in turn will learn how we can all help.

Legislative "Gratitude Days" Set specific days of action for your Auxiliary to commit to contacting legislators with message of thanks, while also urging them to support the legislation that benefits veterans. Use the resources found on Malta:

Use these resources found on Malta:

<https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/Account/NewLogin?ReturnUrl=%2FDashboard>

To Identify your congressional representative: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/address>

Contact your Legislators www.Govtrack.us/congress/members/MD Advocates for Veterans:

Contact the DC Office Vfw.org/advocacy Phone: 202-543-2239 200 Maryland Ave NE Washington DC 20002

DID YOU KNOW:

H.R.2878 — 119th Congress (2025-2026)

Daniel J. Harvey, Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DOD) to provide additional information and assistance related to mental health care to veterans in the

Solid Start program and members of the Armed Forces in the Transition Assistance Program.

Specifically, the bill requires that counseling provided under DOD's Transition Assistance Program include additional mental health information, including information about the risk of suicide and other potential stressors associated with separation from the Armed Forces.

The bill also expands the activities that must be carried out by the VA under the Solid Start program, which is an outreach program for veterans in their first year of separation from service.

Specifically, under the program, the VA must (1) assist eligible veterans who elect to enroll in the VA health care system, and (2) educate veterans about mental health and counseling services available through the Veterans Health Administration.

Reach out to Legislators.

Our Service People and Veterans need your voice.

There are currently over 70 bills benefiting our veterans in Congress.

Information is all found in Action Corp Weekly

<https://votervoice.net/VFW/Directory>

Find your legislator.

Focus on a few, reach out to your Congress Person and let them know what we need for our Veterans.

Sometimes our voice is all the veteran has.

Don't' forget to include your Post # in the email Subject Line and your return address on mailed reports for an extra point.

**I am sending warm wishes for a very
Happy Holiday Season and Blessed New Year.**

Continue being a force for our Veterans.

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Weekly!**