



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, July, 23, 2017

Volume 8, Issue 30

This-N-That

Every 65 minutes a Veteran commits suicide! TWENTY-TWO per day! In my humble opinion, ONE is too many!

The VA is launching an initiative called "Reach Vet" to help prevent suicides, but the way I see it, when a Veteran shows up in your ER asking for help, GIVE IT HIM/HER!

When a Veteran has filed a claim asking for help and benefits, MAKE THEM A PRIORITY! Don't summarily dismiss their claim just because you can, or just because it's SOP (standard operating practices). Then maybe we'd not be seeing all these men and women feeling that suicide is their only option.

In this and every newsletter we publish, you can find the phone numbers for just information and for emergencies. Please, print it out, or write them down and keep it near your phone, hell for that matter program them into your speed dial.

If you know someone who is or might be in trouble, please stop, talk to them, do what ever it takes and lets work together to stop the insanity.

Blue Water Navy has been fighting very long and very hard for benefits and medical care and for years the VA has refused, denied, and ignored them.

But they are very close for the first time in years to actually seeing legislation being passed to make sure they are cared for, so I'd like to ask all our readers to use the phone numbers further down in the newsletter, call your Congressman and both your Senator's and ask them to please support and vote yes on the legislation.

Help us to help them, and you just never know, YOU might help save a life!

Finally, what I see as one of the first POSITIVE actions the VA has taken is in dealing with the Manchester VAMC and all the allegations made by the doctors and chief of staff.

Secretary Shulkin has removed the director, and Alfred Montoya, the director of the VAMC in White River Junction, Vermont, will serve as the new director of the Manchester VAMC and the new chief of staff will be announced shortly.

And even though I still have my doubts about the abilities of Dr. Shulkin to manage the largest healthcare system in the world, at least he is doing something I feel is positive about a crisis in one facility.

Homeless Veteran is still a very critical problem. And yes I will agree, some, made a choice to be homeless, but the vast majority DID NOT, they were forced into it by the VA ignoring their claims, denied them medical care and benefits.

And I will also agree some are now alcoholics and drug addicts, but, NO ONE chooses to be an alcoholic or a drug addict. People turn to booze and drugs to alleviate pain whether it's mental or physical, and it is very REAL pain and I personally feel if they were not seen as people with their hands out for freebies, or making false claims just to get benefits and drugs and seen as real people with real problems, most if not all brought on by their service we would see far less homeless.

And I have watched as the past three Secretaries begged Congress for more money to "solve" the problem and were granted billions, yet where are those they've "helped?" Why are the numbers still growing?

And Secretary Shulkin has plans in the works to get rid of "non-essential" buildings, property etc which all could be easily converted into housing for our Veterans, also making it easier for them to be close to the VA Hospital for medical care, and could also have a "roaming" nurse practitioner to make health checks and just talk with those who need to talk about medications, etc.

So I'd like to ask if all our readers would again contact your Congressmen and Senator's and ask they please put a stop to the actions of Shulkin and take serious moves to convert to housing for our Veterans and in the long run would end up saving billions of dollars, have better control and oversight than doling out money to private organizations which some have already been proven un-trust worthy.

We continue to receive more stories and have been blast faxing to

all members of Congress since ten weeks ago Sunday non-stop.

It's not too late, so if you'd like to share your story and help put faces on the problems that you face in your everyday life in dealing with the VA, please send them on to my e-mail address.

Only rules are no last names, no social security numbers, no phone numbers, only first name, city and state. All other information would be redacted and isn't needed so we can insure the protections of everyone.

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

Senate Bill: TRICARE Fees, Pay Caps, and More

The Senate Armed Services Committee has voted to their version of the National Defense Authorization Act bill (S 1519), which the committee approved before Congress began its July 4 holiday break. If the Senate NDAA passes, working-age retirees will no longer be exempt from a host of higher TRICARE fees. The Senate bill also would cut combined Basic Allowance for Housing for dual service couples with children, and the military pay raise next January would be capped at 2.1 percent, as President Trump proposed, versus the House bill's support of a 2.4 percent hike to match recent private sector wage growth. Read more about the Senate's plans for TRICARE, Pay and Allowances in this [article](#).

Fiscal Year 2017 NDAA Moves Forward

The House and Senate have been working on their own versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which they must pass each year. While they are behind schedule, the House of Representatives finally passed its version of the NDAA on July 14 and the Senate Armed Services Committee released its version a few days later.

The House NDAA authorizes increases in the size of Army, Navy, Air Force, Army Guard and Reserve, Naval and Air Reserve, and Air Guard and it fully funds the 2.4% pay raise for active duty personnel while blocking the President's ability to reduce troop pay. It also extends special pay and bonuses for servicemembers.

The bill prohibits the attempt to close military medical facilities which are outside of the United States and which deployed troops and their families rely on.

It also permits the services to reimburse a service member up to \$500 for a spouse's expenses related to obtaining licensing or certification in another state because of a military move.

Perhaps the best news is that the House NDAA makes no changes to TRICARE For Life, TRICARE Prime, or last year's new TRICARE Select. It also keeps the current grandfathered fee structure which means those now serving and retired servicemembers and families will not face the large fee hikes included in last year's defense authorization bill. Only those who enter the service after Jan. 1, 2018 will come under the increased fee structure.

The Senate Armed Services Committee's version of the FY2017 NDAA is a different story, however.

The Senate's version of the NDAA increases TRICARE pharmacy co-payments and repeals the grandfathered TRICARE fee structure that we just received when Congress was changing the complete structure of TRICARE.

The House's version on the other hand, proposes to maintain the current grandfathered TRICARE fee structure and drug co-pays with any future fee increases only tied to COLAs. The Senate uses part of the money that saves to fund permanent survivor allowances and to extend TRICARE Reserve Select along with paying for funding readiness.

Again: TREA strongly believes that the crucial cost of readiness is an obligation of the entire nation not just a cost to those who have already dedicated their lives to protecting America.

If the Senate gets its way, co-pays will rise from 2018 through 2026 for prescriptions filled at TRICARE retail outlets or through its mail order program. Your cost for a 30-day supply of a brand drug at retail would climb to \$28 in 2018 and \$45 in 2026 and for a 90-day supply by mail order or 30 days of a brand drug on the DoD formulary you would pay \$28 in 2018 and \$45 by 2026. Costs for a generic drug at retail would climb from \$10 to \$14 by 2026. And while generic drugs ordered through the mail currently are free, the Senate wants to add a \$10 co-pay for mail order generic, which would increase to \$14 by 2026.

Obviously, this continues the trend of Congress wanting military personnel to pay more for their health care. Now Congress, or at least the Senate Armed Services Committee, wants to start charging co-pays for generic drugs ordered through the mail and also take away the grandfathering in of working-age retirees they voted for just last year and now force them to start paying several higher TRICARE fees.

TREA will be fighting to stop these increases and we'll report on them in future updates.

Below is a chart created by MOAA that shows the different pending proposals:

	Administration Budget	House bill (H.R. 2810)	Senate bill (S. 1519)
Enrollment	Repeals Grandfathered Fees	Existing (Grandfathered) Fee Structure	Repeals Grandfathered Fees
New TFL fees	No	No	No
Pharmacy fees	Triples fees over 10-year period	Fee increases remain indexed to COLA	Fee increases more than tripled over 10 years
Fee Indexing	Health index [†]	COLA	Health index

[†] The National Health Expenditure index far exceeds COLA increases. It is currently projected to be 5.9 percent in FY 2018.

Source: TREA



Support SBP/DIC Offset Repeal Legislation

Senator Nelson (FL) has introduced legislation (S. 339) and Congressman Joe Wilson (SC) has introduced identical legislation in the house (HR 846) that repeals the SBP/DIC offset for survivors, sometimes referred to as the "Military Widows Tax.". Please use this action center contact your legislators to ask them to support this important legislation.

[Take Action!](#)



2017 College Acceleration Summit Helps Students Grow Academically and Professionally

Take the first step to accelerate your professional growth by registering for the [2017 College Acceleration Summit](#), a free virtual conference on August 8.

This conference will help adults access the knowledge and skills they need for success in the working world. It will feature over 20 world-class education experts, including Military Warriors Support Foundation CEO Leroy Sisco and National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives President Perry Tarran, who will lead sessions that share insights, strategies, and tactics to give you a clear plan to advance your careers.

For attending, you will be eligible to win one of three \$500 scholarships.

“We’re honored to play a part in this conference,” College Acceleration Summit Organizer Shara Wright said. “The presenters bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table, which will undoubtedly help those who sign up for the conference.”

The event is completely free to the general public, with a portion of proceeds from sponsorships supporting the Military Warrior Support Foundation and the Make-A-Wish® Foundation of North Texas.

Note: For more information, Contact Shara Wright at:
swright@makingeducationpossible.com

Tricare Officials to Continue Online Portal Upgrades

Tricare officials plan more online portal updates meant to make it easier for users to access their health records and prescriptions, and to make doctor appointments. Tricare Online, as the site is known, has long allowed beneficiaries some access to a web-based appointment booking system, health records and prescription refill requests. But until late last year, when officials launched sweeping improvements to the site, it was not user-friendly and was plagued with technical problems. For more details, see this [article](#).



Caregivers Program Should Include All Badly Disabled Veterans

Expand VA Caregivers Program (HR 1472/S.591)

The "Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act" has been introduced in the House and Senate (H.R. 1472 and S. 591 respectively) to expand the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Caregivers program to include veterans catastrophically disabled before September 11, 2001. The current program applies to veterans disabled on or after September 11, 2001.

Use the [Action Center](#) to ask your legislators to support this important legislation.



U.S. Government Accountability
Office Reports

- 1) [Biological Defense: Additional Information That Congress May Find Useful as It Considers DOD's Advanced Development and Manufacturing Capability.](#)
 - 2) [DOD Excess Property: Enhanced Controls Needed for Access to Excess Controlled Property.](#)
 - 3) [Drug Discount Program: Update on Agency Efforts to Improve 340B Program Oversight.](#)
 - 4) [Federal Emergency Management Agency: Additional Actions Needed to Improve Handling of Employee Misconduct Allegations.](#)
 - 5) [Medicare Advantage Program Integrity: CMS's Efforts to Ensure Proper Payments and Identify and Recover Improper Payments.](#)
 - 6) [Medicare: CMS Should Evaluate Providing Coverage for Disposable Medical Devices That Could Substitute for Durable Medical Equipment.](#)
-

One ringy dingy, two ...



Veterans call the President. Whose VA is it?

We need everyone to call The President's VA Hotline @ **855-948-2311 8:00AM till 5:30PM ET** and tell them about the Veterans plight with the VA denying presumption of exposure to Agent Orange and various other illnesses related to Agent Orange. Tell them your story.

This would also apply to Veterans from Korea, Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan as well.

This is YOUR CHANCE to get the message through to the President . Be patient and wait for the operator to talk to you .

The line is being manned by military spouses, parents and veterans. All are volunteers. Please show them the respect they deserve.

And if you have not written your story and sent it to me, please do keep them coming. We're not stopping the attack from the side of

Congress either!

Send your stories to: Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

Just please keep in mind, no last names, street addresses, social security numbers or phone numbers. Just First Name, City and State.

**CONTACT YOUR
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!**

**To Call your Representative:
202-225-2305**

**To Call your Senators:
202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553**

**To call Different Members of Congress:
202-224-3121**

TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622

PLEASE... STOP Making Excuses!

www.veterans-for-change.org

VA Partners to Better Serve Women Vets

The Department of Veterans' Affairs [Center for Women Veterans](#) and the National Association of State Women Veterans Coordinators (NASWVC) are now partners in serving women veterans. The new partners will collaborate to advance and improve the quality of life for women Veterans by working to

enhance accessibility to services, evaluate existing programs and gain information from the individuals that directly serve women Veterans. For more information about the NASWVC or to locate your state's coordinator, visit the National Association of State Women Veterans Coordinators (NASWVC) [website](#).



Veterans: Career Exploration & Planning

August 07th, 2017 12:00 pm Mountain

Where: VFW Post #1 Denver, CO AND Farmers Insurance 5555
Tech Center Dr. Suite 110, Colorado Springs, CO AND

Community Writing Center, SLCC, 210 E 400 S – Suite 8, Salt
Lake City, UT

Online: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/xzj6z82ff0hq&eom>

Need a change but don't know what's your best next career? This free workshop is for you! Exploring your options is the first step toward winning a fulfilling and lasting career. Let's dramatically speed up the process. Experts will show you how to use R2W's innovative tools to quickly zero in on jobs matching your career goals, while increasing your interviews and job offers. You might find the perfect job during the class. You will also learn how to get additional training and one-on-one support from caring counselors. Applying for the right job could last a lifetime. It's worth exploring! Signup for a mentor! "Workshops are comprised of a 20 minute overview online. FAST! It results in an Action Plan used by Mentors who make a big commitment to you." Services for the

disabled as well.

Gregory Holt, Employee Specialist

Project: Return To Work Inc. (R2W)

Greg.Holt@return2work.org

www.return2work.org

720-359-1541

<http://www.bfound.net/loginBox.aspx?Cold=65&rq=2>

VA Expands Transparency Efforts

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking a further step on transparency and accountability as a follow-on to the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act signed by the president less than two weeks ago. The department is making public a list of adverse employee actions taken since Jan. 20. This information is posted on the VA Office of Accountability and [Whistleblower Protection website](#), and will be updated weekly. For privacy reasons, the adverse action list will not include employee names, but will give information on the position, VA region or administration and type of adverse or disciplinary action taken.



VA Now Offering "Bad Paper" Vets Emergency Mental Health Services

On July 5 the Department of Veterans' Affairs began offering emergency mental health services starting to veterans with other-than-honorable discharges, following through on a departmental change that VA Secretary David Shulkin promised this past March.

Critics, however, have said that while this is a step in the right direction, the VA can and must do more to help this vulnerable population of veterans, especially when the conduct that led to their discharge can be directly attributed to PTSD, TBI, or Military Sexual Trauma (MST).

Currently all VA medical centers will treat veterans who show up with an urgent need for mental health care. Veterans with other-than-honorable discharges can receive mental health care for up to 90 days, according to a VA statement. During the 90 days, the VA will determine whether the veteran's mental health condition is

the result of an injury incurred during their military service. If so, the veteran could be eligible for continued VA care.

At Secretary Shulkin's March 8 appearance before the House Committee on Veterans' the change was billed as a suicide prevention effort. Secretary Shulkin also said he would open up the Veterans Crisis Line to veterans with other-than-honorable discharges, as well as counseling at about 300 vet centers across the country.

More than 13,000 servicemembers separated from the military for misconduct in recent years suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury or another disorder and were prevented from receiving treatment from the VA because of their discharge status, according to a report from the Government Accountability Office released in May. An even larger number of servicemembers were given a "general" discharge, making them ineligible for some VA services. But 13,283 were given the more stringent "other-than-honorable" discharge, which disqualifies them from receiving VA health care.

Source: TREA



**Help Extend VA's Comprehensive Assistance
Program to Family Caregivers of Veterans of
All Military Service Eras**

DAV's "Unsung Heroes Initiative" was launched to great fanfare on Capitol Hill on Monday, June 20. As part of this campaign, DAV National Commander Dave Riley, in concert with Paid Leave for the United States (PL+US), a new organization that shares our goal of supporting family caregivers, recently published a [Change.org petition](#) urging Congress to expand comprehensive caregiver benefits to severely disabled veterans of all generations.

Join more than 30,000 supporters who have already signed this important petition calling for change. Ensure Congress makes this a top legislative priority in the 115th Congress.

Click [HERE](#) to sign.

What Are the Military Marriage Laws and Rules?

You're in the military and planning to get married. Or you're planning to marry a service member. Congratulations! But are there any military marriage laws or military marriage rules you need to know before you tie the knot? For more information, see [this article](#).



Chula Vista Veterans Home Receives Five-Star Rating

Chula Vista, CA -- The Veterans Home of California – Chula Vista has been awarded a “Five-Star” rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS created the Five-Star Quality Rating System to help consumers and their families compare nursing homes more easily via the Nursing Home Compare [Website](#). Nursing homes receiving five stars, the highest possible rating, are considered to have “much above average” quality.

“I am extremely proud of the hard work and mission focus of all the staff at the Chula Vista Veterans Home,” said Dr. Vito Imbasciani, Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). “This accomplishment is a reflection of our entire agency’s commitment to providing the highest quality care to California veterans. It’s exactly what the people of California have the right to expect of us, and is precisely what our veterans deserve.”

The ratings for this determination evaluates compliance with Medicare health and safety standards for acute and continuing

care providers, including nursing homes, with respect to registered nurse staffing, support staffing, quality measures, healthcare inspection and overall quality.

“We could not be more pleased that our five-star CMS rating reflects our effort to provide the highest quality care for our residents,” said Thuy Mascorro, Administrator at the Chula Vista Veterans Home. “We will continue to focus on maintaining that level of service for quality of care; as well as quality of life for our residents.”

The Veterans Home of California-Chula Vista is a 400-bed long-term care facility providing options for domiciliary - independent living, licensed residential, and skilled nursing care. It is one of eight homes operated by CalVet, with other homes located in Yountville, Fresno, West Los Angeles, Barstow, Ventura, Lancaster and Chula Vista. See all the homes and learn more about CalVet at www.calvet.ca.gov.

Veteran Crisis Resources

Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1

Military Crisis Line 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

1-877-4AID-VET (424.3838)

VA Caregiver Support Line 1-855-260-3274

Links to Other Stories

- 1) [A Veteran Spent Last Night In Jail](#)
- 2) [After My Twin Sister Was Killed in Afghanistan, I Realized What a Badass She Truly Was](#)
- 3) [Anti-terrorism sailor earns Navy Times Service Member of the Year honorable mention](#)
- 4) [Army Veteran Pushes Through PTSD; Hopes to Break Records](#)
- 5) [At a four-star Veterans' hospital: Care gets 'worse and worse'](#)
- 6) [Congressman Brian Mast's Oath of Exit bill as part of the National Defense Authorization Act with big bipartisan support](#)
- 7) [Eating Disorders In The Military: 'No One Understands This'](#)
- 8) [Expanded 'forever' GI Bill poised for quick action in Congress](#)
- 9) [Female Veterans To Rep. Lawson In Jacksonville: 'We Need Services'](#)
- 10) [House to act quickly on bipartisan measure to expand GI Bill](#)
- 11) [How VA Reform Turned into a Fight Over Privatization](#)
- 12) [Imaging Pinpoints Brain Circuits Changed by PTSD Therapy](#)
- 13) [Manchester VA Medical Center](#)
- 14) [Medal of Honor Recipient Florent Groberg Brings War on Terror Perspective to Board](#)
- 15) [Navy Veteran visits World War II Memorial](#)
- 16) [New Commander Is Highest-Ranking Woman Officer in Afghanistan](#)
- 17) [The Mission of the National Cemetery Administration](#)
- 18) [Tips for covering child care costs after separating from the military](#)
- 19) [VA Honors Outstanding Achievements in Support of Homeless Veterans Programs](#)
- 20) [VA Launches Effort to Prevent Veteran Suicides](#)
- 21) [Veterans Taking Care of Veterans](#)
- 22) [Veterans who say 'burn pit' exposure made them sick wait for](#)

judge's decision on lawsuit

23) [Victims of Agent Orange](#)

24) [Work on Fixing, Not Dismantling Veterans' Healthcare](#)

You can help VFC by reading articles posted and commenting at the bottom and rate the articles. If you don't have an account, sign up today, it's **FREE**. Your comments and rankings tell us what type of information you want most.

Check us out today: www.veterans-for-change.org

VA Looks at Spray Pain Reliever

Within the next decade, it may be possible for a Veteran to use a simple nasal spray to reduce pain if an ambitious research study at the [Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System](#) completes early stage laboratory investigation and moves to human clinical trials. Dr. Nicholas Gilpin, who recently was awarded a research grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is working to identify the neurobiological mechanisms in underlying heightened pain states in the context of alcohol dependence and stress disorders. Gilpin and his staff are working to develop therapeutic strategies that reduce pain in Veterans living with PTSD and/or alcohol use disorder. For more information read the [VA VAntage Point Blog](#).

The logo for the Veterans-For-Change Web Site is displayed within a rectangular frame with a textured, stone-like border. The text "Veterans-For-Change Web Site" is written in a bold, blue, stylized font with a slight shadow effect.

The Veterans-For-Change website has been under construction since day one back in 2009 and every day since then. The looks

pretty much stay the same, but in the background constant improvement and change is being done to make our website the most user friendly “One-Stop-Shop” website to find almost everything you might have tried to find searching the internet.

Almost a hundred people have been involved; collecting web links to documents now houses on the VFC website, collecting thousands of web links for various issues, illnesses and benefits. Creating forums for all eras of service and two forums one just for men and one just for woman where you can go question, comment, share medical and personal concerns, what ever you’d like it to be.

We also have a forum with a licensed Mental Health Worker, again where you can seek help or just ask questions.

We average 2,200 hits per day, and downloads average 1,000 per day with a total **3,429,447** visitors as of Friday.

If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it’s FREE of charge! You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send you a confirmation E-Mail. Once received, click on the link to be authorized automatically.

www.veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over 16,034 documents on-line
(Updated: 5/19/17)
- FAQ’s with more than 1,600 FAQ’s and answers
- Multiple Forums
 - o Afghanistan Veterans
 - o FMP - Foreign Medial Program
 - o Gulf War & Desert Storm Veterans
 - o Iraq Veterans
 - o Korean Veterans

- o Men Veterans Forum
- o Mental Health for Veterans
- o Political Issues
- o Suggestion Box
- o The Mess Hall
- o VA Hospitals and Medical Centers
- o Veteran Affairs
- o Vietnam Veterans
- o Welcome Mat
- o Women Veterans Forum
- o WW II Veterans
- Job Postings
- Memorial Pages (Updated: 10/10/16)
- News (Articles On-Line: 6,607)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than 3,591, Added 6 New Links (Updated: 06/21/17)

If you have a submission for the memorial pages, E-Mail:
Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org

VA Offers New Prosthetic

The Life Under Kinetic Evolution (LUKE) arm, the world's most advanced commercial prosthetic, is about to change the lives of Veterans and others with upper arm amputations. Unlike less-advanced prosthetics, the entire LUKE arm can move as one unit, reducing the labor-intensive process of controlling one joint at a time. The LUKE arm also features the first commercially available powered shoulder, with up to 10 powered degrees of freedom. For more information, read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#).

GOP Leadership May Tie Debt Ceiling Hike to VA Choice Funding

Word leaked late last week that Republican leadership in Congress plans for the Senate to vote first on a bill to hike the debt ceiling, and to tie the debt limit legislation to an extension of a program letting veterans receive medical care outside of Veterans Affairs facilities. Funding for the Choice Program is scheduled to run out by August 7, making it a must-pass in the eyes of Congressional leadership.

The House would put the debt limit package to a vote in September when members return from their planned five-week August break. While the Senate will stay in Washington for the first two weeks of August, the House would stick around -- or come back -- only if needed to vote on the Republican plan to replace Obamacare.

The Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs have proposed two competing bills to overhaul the VA's Veterans Choice Program.

Chairman Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Ranking Member Jon Tester (D-MT) each proposed new legislation during a hearing last week to address the Choice program's funding shortfall. Isakson's plan would allow any veteran enrolled in the VA to receive a "Choice card," which they could use to access care outside the VA. Tester's plan would continue funding VA Choice and allow only those veterans who meet certain criteria to get care in their own communities.

Both senators want to consolidate the VA's many community care programs so it's easier to move money between accounts.

TREA: The Enlisted Association will let you know which plan

seems to be gaining the most support as the process continues.

Source: TREA



[Click Here](#)



Support S. 683, Keeping Our Commitment to Disabled Veterans Act of 2017

Senator Mazie Hirono introduced S. 683, the Keeping Our Commitment to Disabled Veterans Act of 2017. This bill would extend the requirement for VA to provide nursing home care to veterans with service-connected conditions rated at 70 percent or more, as well as those who need such care for a service-connected disability, or who have a rating of total disability based on individual unemployability.

DAV Resolution No. 142 calls for support of legislation to expand the comprehensive program of Long-Term Support Services (LTSS) for service-connected disabled veterans irrespective of

their disability ratings. The resolution notes that there is a subset of service-connected veterans with chronic or terminal illnesses who need LTSS and will require institutional placements. According to a recent DAV family caregiver survey, most caregivers indicated that their loved one would need care in an institution now (26%) or would need institutional care in the future without their support (49%). Without family caregivers, institutional care is the only alternative for many veterans with severe disabilities.

According to VA, there were around 21,300 veterans nationwide who met the legislative mandate for nursing home care in fiscal year (FY) 2016. VA estimates there will be over 21,800 veterans treated under this legislative mandate in 2017 and this number is projected to increase to over 22,200 in FY 2018 and over 22,600 in FY 2019. Without extension of the current mandate by Congress beyond December 31, 2017, VA would no longer be required to provide this critical LTSS coverage to service-disabled veterans.

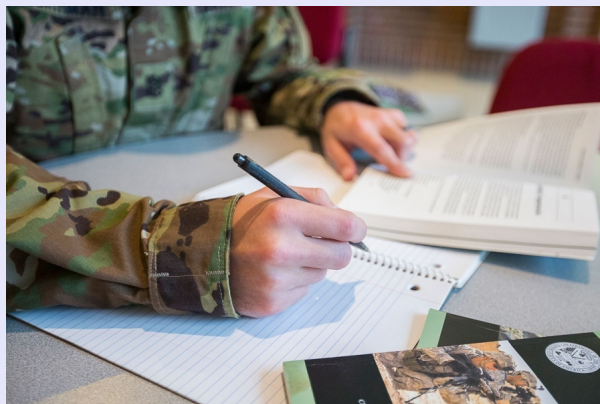
Please ask your Senator to cosponsor and to support passage of the Keeping Our Commitment to Disabled Veterans Act of 2017, S. 683.

As always thank you for your support of disabled veterans and the DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network).

Click [HERE](#) and send your message!



**“We Proudly Support our
Military Personnel & Families”**



New GI Bill Would Make College Education a Lifetime Benefit

A bipartisan bill was introduced in the House of Representatives

on Thursday to make the GI Bill for post-9/11 veterans a lifetime education benefit for new recruits who go on to serve three years of active duty. For more details, see this [article](#).

If you received this newsletter as a courtesy or a forward from a friend or relative, you can sign up to receive in your E-mail every week.

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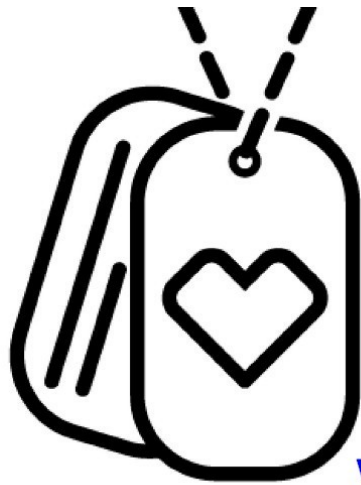
Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family!

Please do not reply to this E-Mail, this is an unattended E-Mail

address, please send all correspondence to:

Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org

Distribution	
Express Mail	144,904
Boston	75,589
Courtesy Copies	3,500
Department of VA	12,919
DoD	30,294
Face Book Pages	3,569
Google	28,940
Los Angeles	136,008
Microsoft	9,780
National Guard	4242
New York	153,650
Other Social Media	43,982
San Francisco	79,413
Twitter	43
US House of Reps & Staff	991
US Senators & Staff	109
University of So. California	5,337
US Air Force	26,409
US Army	67,601
US Marines	28,810
US Navy	38,317
Veterans	19,090,844
Washington DC	143,492
Yahoo	139
	20,128,882



**Our values
match yours.**



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