

Legislative Update

MOAA and Councils & Chapters in 2025

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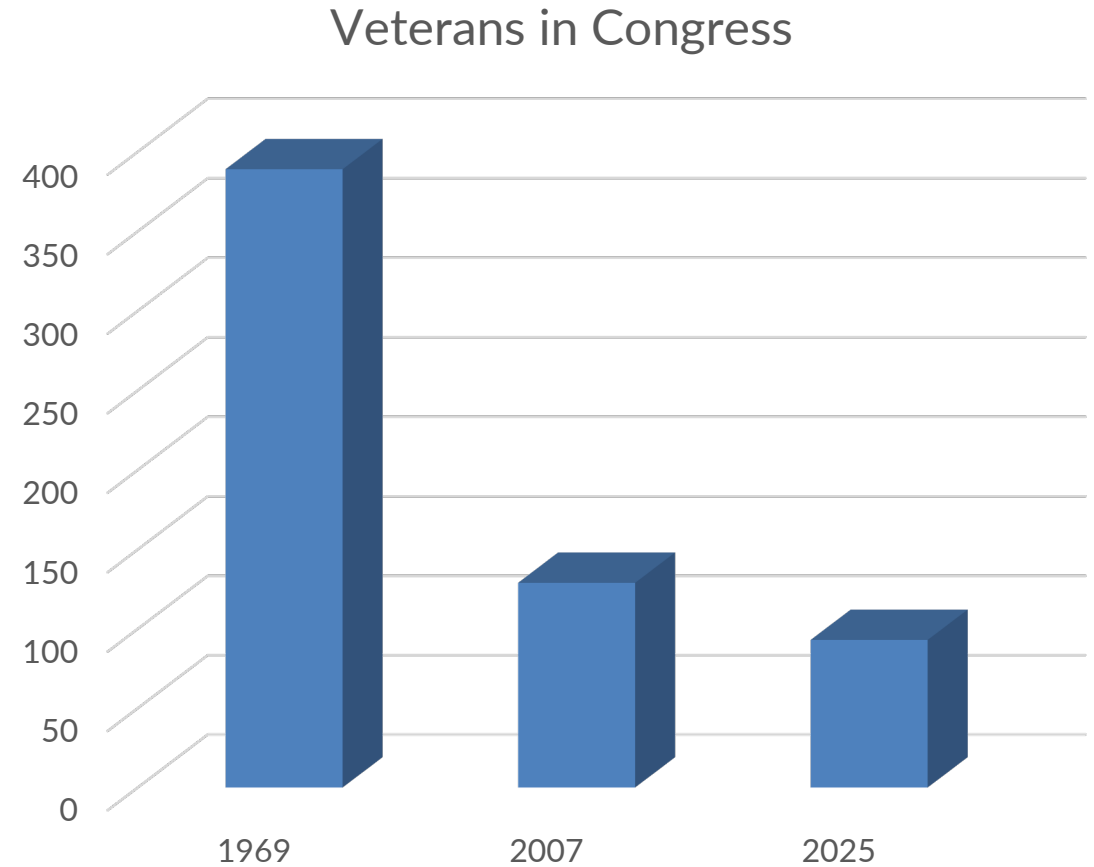


Agenda

- Overview - Why Advocacy?
- Legislative Update
 - Tier 1 Priorities Update
 - 119th Congress So Far
 - Summer Advocacy in Action (AiA)
- Council and Chapter Resources
 - Legislative Action Center Update
 - Legislative Leaders Page
- Discussion Questions

Why Advocacy? – MOAA's Mission

- Champion and maintain policies sustaining the all-volunteer force.
- Navigate a challenging fiscal environment
- Ensure military and veteran voices are heard in Congress:
 - 389 in 1969 – 73%
 - 129 in 2007 – 24%
 - 93 veterans serving today in Congress – 17%



Why Advocacy? – Grassroots Advocacy

- Lawmakers respond to constituents
- Local engagement amplifies MOAA's message
- Examples of grassroots impact:
 - Honoring Our PACT Act
 - Repeal of the Widow's Tax
- Timely mobilization is key to success

Legislative Update – Tier 1 Priorities

- **Currently Serving:**
 - Unaccompanied Housing Improvements
- **Retirees/Veterans:**
 - Ending the Wait Report Priorities
- **Family/Survivors:**
 - Military Spouse Hiring Act
- **DoD Health Care:**
 - MHS Stability Through Accountability
- **VA Health Care:**
 - Caregiving Support Improvements

Unaccompanied Housing Improvements

- **Issue:** Thousands of junior servicemembers are living in unsafe, unhealthy unaccompanied housing due to years of underfunding, poor oversight, and a \$137B maintenance backlog.
- **MOAA Ask:** Require DoD to make UH condition reports publicly available.
- **Status (Aug. 2025):** Efforts to publicly share annual UH condition reports are still underway; recent Reconciliation Bill funding shows Congress remains engaged on improving barracks quality.



Ending the Wait

- **Issue:** Toxic-exposed veterans wait an average of 34 years from exposure to full VA care—delays caused by outdated systems and legal gaps.
- **MOAA Ask:** Support legislation to establish a streamlined presumptive-making process, including a classification system for exposures and clear timelines for VA decisions.
- **Status (Aug 2025):** Post-PACT Act, MOAA is in the education phase—building momentum and awareness for needed reforms. Bills addressing specific exposures, such as the ACES Act, are advancing.



Military Spouse Hiring Act

- **Issue:** Military spouses face a 21% unemployment rate — five times the national average — due to frequent moves, unpredictable schedules, and limited job options near bases.
- **MOAA Ask:** Add military spouses as a target group under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to incentivize employers to hire from this skilled workforce.
- **Status (Aug 2025):** Bill gaining momentum — 93 cosponsors in the House and 27 in the Senate. WOTC authorization ends in Dec 2025, creating a likely window for legislative action.



TRICARE Digital Access Platform

- **Issue:** Military families face uneven access to care due to a complex mix of military treatment facilities and civilian TRICARE providers, leading to delays and navigation challenges.
- **MOAA Ask:** Create a digital system for beneficiaries to report access issues, get help navigating care, and improve transparency for Congress and DHA.
- **Status (Aug 2025):** Still being pursued. Congressional interest is high for access to reproductive healthcare; further discussion planned during Summer Advocacy in Action.



Veteran Caregiver 3R Bill

- **Issue:** Millions of military and veteran caregivers sacrifice careers, income, and retirement security to care for aging or disabled veterans, facing financial hardship and limited support when their caregiving role ends.
- **MOAA Ask:** Pass the the 3R Bill to support caregivers to transition to the workforce or retirement.
- **Status (Aug 2025):** Passed out of Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee before recess; additional movement expected after recess.



Legislative Update – 119th Congress so far

- Reconciliation bill wins: 90-10 rule protected, BAH, unaccompanied housing, health care, child care, spouse licensure
- NDAA progress in both chambers, differences remain
- Appropriations moving, likely CR before Oct. 1
- Focus: Protecting core benefits provisions, stopping harmful amendments

Legislative Update – Summer AiA

- **Summer AiA began 8/5**
 - Targets NDAA timing & August recess
 - Pivoting topics from Spring AiA due to lawmaker momentum
 - Mid-month single topic calls to action will follow Campaign launch in late August
- **Messaging focus:** Supporting servicemembers and military families, is key component of mission readiness
- **Topics:** Military Spouse Hiring Act and *Two Other Topics*

Summer AiA Topics

Major Richard Star Act

- Establishes concurrent receipt for Chapter 61 (medically retired) retirees.
- Introduced as amendment to the Senate NDAA on 7/22.

TRICARE Access to Care

- NDAA provides a path forward for two bills that would improve access to care.
- **Improving Access to Prenatal Care for Military Families Act** – Makes pregnancy a TRICARE QLE
- **TOTAL Care Act** – Eliminates need for OB-GYN referral (brings TRICARE Prime in line with commercial plans)

Council and Chapter Resources – Legislative Action Center

- Visually redesigned Legislative Action Center for ease of access.
- Features
 - Featured Advocacy Campaigns
 - Calls to Action by Issue Area
 - Advocacy News and Video
- Technical support via FAQ at top and support at msc@moaa.org

Featured Advocacy Campaigns

Pass the Major Richard Star Act

Write

Improve TRICARE Access for Families

Write

Support Military Spouse Employment

Write

MOAA's Advocacy By Issue Area

Currently
Serving


DoD Health
Care


Families &
Survivors

Retirees &
Veterans

VA Health
Care

Latest Advocacy News



Watch on  YouTube

Summer Advocacy in Action: It's August, and that means lawmakers are back home for their annual summer recess, the perfect time for MOAA's grassroots advocates to raise their voices and make a difference. MOAA's summer campaign focuses on three legislative priorities that directly affect readiness, retention, and the well-being of our nation's all-volunteer force.

Other important developments regarding MOAA's advocacy:

- Push to Help Combat-Injured Veterans Continues With Senate NDAA
- 'TRICARE Is Falling Short': MOAA, Military Coalition Highlight Gaps
- How MOAA Is Working to Close the Gap for Guard and Reserve Education Benefits

Council and Chapter Resources – Legislative Leaders Page

moaa.org/legisleaders

- **Quarterly Action Center Data**
 - Updated quarterly, next update in October
- **General Resources**
 - Advocacy in Action Information
 - State Report Card
 - Official Links



Discussion Questions

- Before discussion, any questions on the presentation?
- **Discussion Question 1:** What strategies have you found effective for engaging Chapter members in advocacy efforts?
- **Discussion Question 2:** What strategies have you found effective for engaging with lawmakers?
- **Discussion Question 3:** What challenges have you encountered with Federal or State advocacy at the Chapter level?

Council and Chapter Workshop Resumes at 3:00 PM

Further questions? Email legis@moaa.org



