



Legislative Update

MOAA and Councils & Chapters in 2025

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Agenda

- Why Advocacy?
- National and Council/Chapter Collaboration
- 118th Congress – Legislative Highlights
- 119th Congress
 - Tier 1 Priorities
 - Enduring and Redline Issues

Why Advocacy?

- Given the fierce competition for limited funding, strong advocacy on the Hill is essential to ensure that service-earned pay and benefits are not compromised in the name of cost savings.
- Each of us must be engaged – active duty, retired, veterans & military spouses
 - to encourage future generations to serve and to champion the needs of the uniformed services and veteran communities.
- Continue to educate & inform elected officials:
 - 93 veterans serving today in Congress – 17%
 - 129 in 2007 – 24%
 - 389 in 1969 – 73%

National and Council/Chapter Collaboration

- Discussion Questions:
 - What does your council/chapter do well?
 - Where can you improve?
- Council & Chapter Resources:
 - State Report Card
 - State Legislative Exchange Forum
 - Legislative Leaders Page
 - Legislative Action Center
 - Military Officer Magazine
 - The MOAA Newsletter
 - Social Media
 - Capitol Hill Toll-Free Hotline



118th Congress – Legislative Highlights

- **Currently Serving:**
 - Targeted pay table reforms for junior enlisted members (E-1 to E-4).
- **Retirees/Veterans:**
 - MOAA-DAV Ending the Wait Report.
 - Restoration of caisson services at Arlington National Cemetery.
- **Family/Survivors:**
 - Portability of professional licenses to support military spouse employment.
 - Extension for minor dependents to file death gratuity claims.
- **DoD Health Care:**
 - The MOAA-backed REWARD Experience Act waives obstructive regulations and enable MTFs to retain talented medical personnel so that they remain part of the DoD health care system.
- **VA Health Care:**
 - The Elizabeth Dole Act provides significant relief to veterans and their families by expanding benefits, enhancing services, and improving long-term care solutions.

119th Congress – Tier 1 Priorities

- **Currently Serving:**
 - Earned Benefit Parity
- **Retirees/Veterans:**
 - GUARD VA Benefits Act
- **Family/Survivors:**
 - Military Spouse Hiring Act
- **DoD Health Care:**
 - MHS Stability Through Accountability
- **VA Health Care:**
 - Caregiving Support Improvements

119th Congress – Enduring and Redline Issues

- **Enduring Issues:**

- Issues that we will always advocate for, until passed, even if they are not among our day-to-day priorities, such as concurrent receipt for combat wounded (Richard Star Act), Arlington National Cemetery access, or COLA.

- **Redline Issues:**

- Issues that we continually monitor and will immediately mobilize the entire association, our membership, the MSO/VSO community, and our allies to protect, such as:
 - Decrements to scheduled pay increases as defined by law.
 - Any new TRICARE or TRICARE Pharmacy Program fee.
 - TRICARE cost sharing increases that exceed military retired pay COLA or TRICARE Pharmacy Program cost sharing that exceeds common industry practice.
 - Unequal decrements of compensation and benefits based on rank, age, family composition, retirement status, or disability benefits.

