

## 2026 – 2027 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Madeline Cunningham-Colston, Department Chairman

The **VFW Action Corps Weekly** is our best resource for learning what we can do to educate our members on all legislative activity affecting veterans' concerns and about where we want our legislators to focus their attention and support. To sign up for this free, short newsletter, text "VFW" to 50457, or visit [vfw.org/JoinActionCorps!](http://vfw.org/JoinActionCorps!) or scan the QR code:



The VFW will issue an "Action Alert" when your voice is needed to contact your legislators to advocate for or against specific legislation that impacts veterans.

There are three (3) Action Alerts that the VFW is looking for us to address:

1. The *Take Care of America's Veterans Act* would fund new veterans' benefits by cutting disability ratings for tinnitus and sleep apnea, which would affect up to 1.5 million vets and remove \$57 billion from veterans' disability compensation over 10 years. Tell Congress to remove the disability compensation offset provisions from the Act and find a funding solution that does not come at the expense of veterans and their families: <https://www.votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns/138035/Respond>.
2. Congress already supports The Major Richard Star Act. Now it is time to bring it to a vote. A discharge petition has been filed in the House of Representatives to take action on this long-overdue legislations for combat-disabled veterans . If enough Members of Congress sign the petition, the House can move the bill forward for a vote. Tell your Representative to sign the discharge petition for the Major Richard Star Act and help bring the bill to a vote:  
<https://votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns/137604/Respond>.
3. Tell Congress Veterans Deserve Safer Treatment Options: Veterans are being prescribed powerful psychiatric medications, often several at once, without clear written information about the risks. Many were never warned about sever side effects of danger drug interactions. Others were left with few PTSD treatment options beyond medication, even when innovative therapies could offer real relief. Two House bills would bring real protection and real options:

- a. H.R. 4837 – Written Informed Consent Act: requires clear written information before VA prescribes certain psychiatric medications
- b. H.R. 2623 – Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act of 2025: creates 5 VA centers to expand access to cutting-edge PTSD treatments

Tell Congress to co-sponsor these bills and ensure veterans receive the protection, transparency and treatment options they deserve:

<https://www.votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns/131895/Respond>.

Reports: please report the following on our easy-to-use Department website reporting form:

- If you already receive the **VFW Action Corps Weekly**, please take a few moments to submit a report stating that.
- If you haven't signed up, please do so and report that.
- If you have responded to any of the Action Alerts noted above, please report that.

This is an election year and it's a great time to tell our elected officials (who are accountable to us) how to best "Honor The Contract" with our veterans, service members and their families.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

*Maddie*

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