

# Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN July 2023

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Legislative Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*

Let us talk about written communication with our legislators.

- Remember to address your legislator as Senator or Representative.
- Introduce yourself.
- Keep the message simple.
- One topic per letter.
- Make sure there is a contact email or address for the senator/representative to acknowledge your letter.

## EXAMPLE

July 1, 2023

Dear Representative Carter:

I am Aileen Adragna from VFW Auxiliary 1370 in Pontiac.

I am writing to you to ask for your support of HR. 1224 the concurrent receipt of disability and retirement pay for military personnel who were eligible under chapter 61 of the military code for military retirement. Personnel who are penalized because they receive one pay over the other is a great disservice to their time spent defending our country.

I can be reached at [aileenadragna@yahoo.com](mailto:aileenadragna@yahoo.com) or via U.S. Mail at 10 Cardinal Hill.

Sincerely,

Once you send your letter to your legislator, report, report, report. Please add the bill number and title when you report.

Of course, if you use the links set up by the DAV, VFW, etc. it is even easier than this; the link will fill in everything for you and send it to all the appropriate people. You will receive a message back thanking you for writing.

Come on everyone. Let's do this!

## August 2023 Legislative

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I want to remind everyone, although you read the bulletin at your meetings, it is not reportable for awards. We need you to take action by writing letters, emails, postcards or calling your representatives and/or senators to Lansing and Washington DC. When reporting, add the bill number and title of the bill to your report. This will help you keep track of the bills and any answers you may receive. Ask yourself, does this bill help our veterans and military service personnel collect their VA benefits? If yes, ask for their support and explain how it will help others. If not, then ask them to reject the proposed action and why it is wrong.

When using the material from Malta, report how you utilized the material. Did you make copies of the priority goals and distribute copies at your summer membership picnic? Did you share them with members, guests, visitors? I will not approve a report that says utilized material from Malta, unless you can tell me how you used the items. If you cannot utilize the items on Malta, let's have a discussion at the fall conference in Flint with others who may be using them and how they are implemented.

And now for some simple definitions:

Legislate - to make or enact laws.

Republic - a state in which supreme power is held by the people.

Democracy - a system of government by the whole population

Congress - the national legislative body

Constitution - a body of fundamental principles or established precedents

Freedom - the power or right to act, speak, or think without hindrance.

Advocate - a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy.

This last definition is what we are...advocates for veterans and military. This is why we write letters. This is why we need to get to know our legislators on a first name basis. This is why the organization came together more than one hundred years ago. To advocate for the benefits that were promised by a national government when they asked for men to join the service to fight in the first great war. Never again do we want a government to make false promises to the men and women who choose to defend this country. Never again do we want fighting men and women to be spit upon and told they are forgettable.

Stand tall. Be that powerhouse. That Champion. That Advocate.

Loyally

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