

Michigan Department Auxiliary
LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN
September and October 2021
www.vfwauxmi.org

National Theme: Soaring Above and Beyond
Department Theme: Tell Our Story of Service

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM GOALS

- ★ Priority Goals ★ VFW Action Corps Weekly
- ★ Community Legislative Education and Engagement

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Our year is full of opportunities for positive contribution. We have a number of ways to reach out effectively and many are featured on our own VFW Auxiliary Department of MI website at <https://vfwauxmi.org>. Simply click on 'Programs,' then 'Legislative' for links from our VFW National Auxiliary program. This Program Chair has been busy meeting with state legislators, reading the Legislative Reports you have submitted, and focusing upon our goals, and also referring to our Department page's example. It includes suggestions regarding how we can each learn, teach, and soar by telling our story of service.

VFW Priority Goals: Can be found at: <https://www.vfw.org/-/media/vfwsite/files/advocacy/prioritygoalsbrochure.pdf>. Please download, share, and support!

VFW Action Corps Weekly: Please share with our Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers that the VFW Action Corp Weekly is a regularly updated legislative resource that promotes the VFW Priority Goals while keeping us aware of federal decisions that affect our veterans, our troops, and the families of all. Indeed, it is a great asset unto us! The webpage is found at: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts>

Federal Legislation: In June, the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs introduced comprehensive legislation on toxic exposure addressing the VFW's top legislative priority. The House bill is the **Honoring our PACT Act** and the Senate bill is the **COST of War Act**. Please add our voices of support to affect proactive change with perseverance and effort! Here is a quick link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns/85329/Respond>

Additionally, per the VFW *Action Corps Weekly* overviews, please also support:

H.R. 2587, SERVE Act: “Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard all have medical military occupational specialists who served in various positions from combat medics to pharmacy technicians. The Air Force even provides medical support to the Space Force. To lose these individuals and the hours of military training or to have them spend valuable education funds to re-educate in a field they served is disgraceful and wasteful.”

H.R. 333: Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act: “Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act This bill modifies provisions related to military retired pay. Specifically, the bill authorizes veterans with a service-connected disability of less than 50% to concurrently receive both retired pay and disability compensation. The bill also makes qualified disability retirees with less than 20 years of retirement-creditable service eligible for concurrent receipt, subject to specified reductions in retired pay.” As of March 2021, referred to House Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Please see for other VFW-Supported Federal Bills: <https://votervoicenet/VFW/bills>

Community Legislative Education and Engagement: Another key objective of the Legislative Program is proactive education and involvement regarding VFW Priority Goals. This includes training our members on the legislative process as well as reaching out to law makers at various levels to properly advocate for VFW-supported efforts.

Happily, our Dept has 3 downloads available to help! The first option an informative word search. The second is a more difficult crossword. The third item is one that can be summarized while members complete either the word search or crossword – VFW Nation Auxiliary’s Guide to the Legislative Process. They can be found on the VFW AUX Dept. website <https://vfwauxmi.org>. Simply selection ‘Programs’ at top of page, then click on ‘Legislative,’ and go to ‘Misc. 2021-2022.’ Also, please be sure to visit VFW AUX’s National Website for an array of legislative tools: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/resources/>

State of Michigan Legislators: www.Michiganlegislature.org

Federal Legislators: U.S. Senators -- www.senate.gov

U.S. Representatives -- www.house.gov

Federal Bill Tracking: You can track a federal bill’s progress via: www.thomas.gov.

➔ Please be sure to report each quarter. PLEASE include details regarding how many contacts, how resources were used, VFW Action Corps sign-up, and misc., and/or any training of members regarding the legislative process. This does matter; thanks again for your efforts.

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