

Legislative Bulletin  
Feb 2024  
Educating Tomorrow's Veterans Today

Greetings,

The second session of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress will commence in the upcoming weeks. Although there have been many successes for our Veterans in 2023. We need to push harder and reach out to our Congressmen and Women.

Some highlights from 2023 include, the NDAA and two stand-alone bills were signed into law by President Biden. With support from the Legion, S. 777, also known as the *Veteran's COLA Act of 2023*, requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) to increase wartime disability compensation, clothing allowances for disabled veterans, and certain compensation for dependents and surviving spouses and children. The amounts payable must increase in conjunction with the cost-of-living increases. As law, this will directly improve the quality of life for veterans and military families across the country.

The S. 30, the *Fiscal Year 2023 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act*, *approves* the construction of several VA hospitals and medical facilities and provides the budget to do so. According to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs (SVAC), the aim of this bill is to improve upon the "historic infrastructure investments" that came with the *PACT Act*.

So far 12 bills with Legion support have passed one chamber. 10 bills have passed the House and are waiting their turn in the Senate, and 2 have passed the Senate and must be approved in the House.

Of the bills that have passed the House, 2 provide support for caregivers, 4 strengthen education and employment benefits, 2 focus on disability compensation and benefits, 1 ensuring that veterans have equal access to the second amendment, and 1 improving housing allowances and aid for homeless veterans.

Because there is always a looming shut down of the government. I do not understand, but they passed a "laddered" approach to the shutdown, with two dates in mind. Jan 19 and Feb 2. This applies to Homeland Security, Labor-HHS-Education, and a few other bills.

The House and Senate have reached a deal on a \$1.59 billion topline for spending, but the details of how this money will be spent is still up in the air. If Congress is unable to pass all of the spending bills or a combination of them, they will either be forced to pass another CR or to shut down the unfunded parts of the government.

If they will just work together, they can get this done! Please reach out to your Congress person.

Let's hope that they can meet the deadlines.

As always, there are other important bills to check out on the following website. Check it out here: <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>.

Create an account and click away supporting these important legislative issues.

Questions? I am here to help you!

Sincerely,

Kathy Amery  
Arizona Department Legislative Chair  
[Luv2p8@gmail.com](mailto:Luv2p8@gmail.com)  
623-640-0134