



Legislative Update

MOAA and Councils & Chapters in 2025

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Agenda

- Why Advocacy?
- 119th Congress
 - Tier 1 Priorities
 - Enduring and Redline Issues
- Council/Chapter Collaboration
- Advocacy in Action 2025

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%

119th Congress – Tier 1 Priorities

- **Currently Serving:**
 - Unaccompanied Housing Improvements
- **Retirees/Veterans:**
 - Ending the Wait Report Priorities
- **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.

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 Forum
 - Legislative Leaders Page
 - Legislative Action Center
 - Military Officer Magazine
 - The MOAA Newsletter
 - Social Media
 - Capitol Hill Toll-Free Hotline



State Legislative Forum

- Online Forum for council and chapter legislative leaders to share their experiences on issues at the state level.
- Points of Contact:
 - LTC Don Wolfinger, USA (Ret)
 - Greater St. Louis Chapter/ MO Council, Legislative Affairs
 - Email: Don17609@yahoo.com
 - Mobile: 636.484.0248
 - Lt. Col Shelly Kalkowski, USAF (Ret)
 - Chair – State Legislative Committee Colorado
 - Email: Shelly.Kalkowski@ccoc-moaa.org
 - Mobile: 970.337.1193
 - COL Harold Cooney, USA (Ret)
 - Past President, Pennsylvania Council
 - Email: Harold.cooney@gmail.com
 - Mobile: 610.442.5880

Advocacy in Action 2025

- **Advocacy in Action 2025**
 - 163 Volunteers – 1200 Hours Face-to-Face Advocacy
 - 325 Congressional offices visited in 50 States
 - 59 Lawmaker meetings
- **Strategic Innovations**
 - Targeted Advocacy Efforts
 - 5 Topics in 2 Tracks
 - Soapbox Scheduling and Hill Day Support
- **Next Steps**
 - Energize local advocates to reinforce message



