



# IAVA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS

## Suicide & Mental Health

- **Commander John Scott Hannon Mental Healthcare Improvement Act** (Public Law 116-171) Enacted in 2020. *Oversight of implementation needed*
- Includes much-needed updates related to transition assistance, mental health care, care for women veterans, and telehealthcare



## Toxic Exposures & Burn Pits

- **Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act** (Public Law 117-168) Enacted in 2022. *Oversight of implementation needed*
- Provides healthcare and benefits for toxic-exposed veterans and creates a framework for how presumptive illnesses are handled

## Defend and Expand Veterans Education and Economic Opportunities

- **Defend the Post-9/11 GI Bill** from cuts and abuse. *Vigilance needed*
- **Closure of the GI Bill 90/10 loophole** to hold predatory schools accountable. Enacted 2021 *Oversight of implementation needed*

## Veteran Homelessness

- **Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act** Enacted in 2022. *Oversight of implementation needed*
- Expands veterans' access to critical resources, such as increased access to transportation, case management services, job training benefits, and improved transitional housing for aging veterans
- **Expand the definition of homelessness to include marginally sheltered or "couch surfing" veterans**

## Close Gaps in Care for Women Veterans=

- **Deborah Sampson Act.** (Public Law 116-315, Title V) Enacted in 2021. *Oversight of implementation needed*
- *Aims to significantly reduce barriers to care for women veterans while expanding services to address issues like reintegration & homelessness. It also establishes an Office of Women's Health directly under the Under Secretary of VA for Health*
- **Change the VA Motto to be more inclusive of all who have served**
- **Expand current IVF treatments to be more inclusive of all veterans with reproductive injuries**

## Alternative Therapies

- **VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act** (S. 326/ H.R. 1003)
- VA to research the efficacy of medical cannabis as a treatment for veterans with chronic pain, PTSD, and other conditions
- **Remove from Schedule I to allow increased federal research into the efficacy of its medical use**

\* See IAVA's latest Member Survey results that inform our advocacy at: [IAVA.org/survey](https://www.iava.org/survey)



## Afghanistan Withdrawal

- **Afghan Adjustment Act**
- Allows certain Afghans to apply for permanent status after one year of being paroled into the US. It relieves the immediate burden on the SIV process and prevents Afghan parolees from losing their jobs or being deported while their applications for these statuses are pending

## Honor the Service and Sacrifice of Servicemembers and their Families

- **Major Richard Star Act** (S. 344) allows medically-retired, combat-injured personnel to concurrently receive both their DoD retirement benefits for years of service and their VA service-connected disability compensation





## IAVA POLICY PRIORITIES

### Combat Suicide Among Troops and Veterans

**Support those with Injuries from  
Burn Pits and Toxic Exposures**

**Defend Veteran and Military  
Education Benefits**

**End Veteran Homelessness**

**Recognize and Improve Services for  
Women Veterans**

**Empower Veterans Who Want to Utilize  
Alternative Therapies**

**Keep Our Promise To  
Our Wartime Allies**

**Honor the Service and Sacrifice of  
Servicemembers and their Families**

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America is the premier veterans advocacy and support organization on the planet. Founded by an Iraq veteran in 2004, IAVA is the non-partisan leader in advocacy, public awareness, and 1- on-1 care management support. Our mission is to connect, unite, and empower over 425,000 veterans and allies nationwide. We have connected more than 1.2 million veterans with resources and community, and provided thousands of veterans of all generations with life-saving and life-changing personalized support.

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## IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

**FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS**

**CONNECTING,  
UNITING &  
EMPOWERING  
POST-9/11 VETERANS**



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