



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 Veteran 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





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.



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

Allison Jaslow
Chief Executive Officer

Kaitlynn Yancy
Director, Policy and Advocacy
kaitlynn@iava.org

Rodger Pinto
Associate, Policy and Advocacy
rodger@iava.org



200 Massachusetts Avenue NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20001
202.544.7692

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FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS

CONNECTING,
UNITING &
EMPOWERING
POST-9/11 VETERANS



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