

Empowering and Investing in Women Veterans

BACKGROUND

Women are the fastest-growing demographic within the military and veteran community. Women have played a vital role in every conflict since the Revolutionary War, and yet, the existing infrastructure to support their health-care needs continues to be insufficient.

Research shows that women veterans have a suicide rate that is 92.4% higher than their female civilian counterparts. Additionally, the suicide rate was 75% higher for women using VA services who reported experiencing Military Sexual Trauma (MST). The research is clear – more must be done to support the health needs of our female veterans.

Another emerging challenge for VA surrounds the impacts of menopause. Despite impacting half of the population, not much is known about menopause and its effects on women, let alone women who have served. Additionally, 20% of perimenopausal women report symptoms of depression, which becomes complex when considering the additional factor of their service.

The American Legion is proud to endorse, advocate for, and offer grassroots support for legislation that supports and invests in women who have served. The American Legion is fighting for health-care facilities that are inclusive, empowering survivors of MST and investing in research to support women as they age.

KEY POINTS

- Women are the fastest-growing demographic within the military and veteran community.
- Research shows that women veterans have a suicide rate that is 92.4% higher than that of their female civilian counterparts.
- When compared to their civilian counterparts, the suicide rate was 75% higher for women using VA services who reported experiencing MST.
- Not much is known about menopause and its effects on women, let alone women who have served.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

- **Pass S. 1245 – Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support (SAVES) Act**
- **Pass S. 609 – Building Resources and Access for Veterans' Mental Health Engagement (BRAVE) Act**
- **Pass H.R. 219 – Improving Menopause Care for Veterans Act**



92.4% HIGHER

the suicide rate for women veterans
compared to their civilian counterparts

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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list of legislative priorities of The
American Legion.*

