

Advance Armed Forces Lethality

Maintain U.S. military superiority through modernization.

Congress Must:

- Increase defense R&D funding
- Invest in the National Defense Strategy
- Expand shipbuilding capacity
- Secure critical minerals through domestic and allied supply chains

Pass H.R. 3151/S.1541 – Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act

End Veteran Homelessness

Veteran homelessness stems from complex, interrelated challenges requiring a comprehensive response.

Congress Must:

- Increase project-based HUD/VASH vouchers
- Permanently authorize Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program
- Fully fund the Grant Per-Diem program as authorized

Pass H.R. 1957 – End Veteran Homelessness Act

Pass H.R. 3869 – Every Veteran Housed Act

Strengthen our Domestic Supply Chain and Promote Veteran Entrepreneurship

Veterans face barriers to pursuing entrepreneurship, especially in gaining access to start-up capital and competing in federal contracting.

Congress Must:

- Strengthen veteran entrepreneurship and domestic economic opportunity
- Create opportunities to provide veterans with access to capital
- Prioritize veteran-owned small businesses in federal contracting

Pass H.R. 865, The Service Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act.

Pass S. 3171, Veteran Entrepreneurship Empowerment Act



Protect the U.S. Flag

Since a 1989 Supreme Court decision defined deliberate acts of U.S. flag desecration as protected by the First Amendment, The American Legion has led efforts to restore penalties for physical desecration of the U.S. flag.

Pass H.J.R. 101/S.J.R. 58 – Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States

The American Legion's Legislative Agenda & Point Papers

Scan the QR code to read the full list of legislative priorities of The American Legion.



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Stock# 80-002

Artwork# 13LEG1225



The American Legion Legislative Agenda

For the 119th Congress,
2nd Session



THE AMERICAN LEGION is the largest of all U.S. veteran service organization with nearly 1.4 million members working through more than 11,000 local posts in communities worldwide. We proudly advocate for veterans, military strength, youth and patriotic values. The following priorities for the second session of the 119th Congress are presented here, in no particular order, followed by the legislation The American Legion supports that can address these issues. They are all important and driven by resolutions passed by the organization's all-volunteer, all-veteran membership.

Winning the War Within

Veteran suicide remains a national crisis and The American Legion's top legislative priority. Barriers such as access to care, social isolation and economic stress continue to put veterans at risk.

Congress Must:

- Expand community-based outreach and prevention
- Fund evidence-based mental health treatment

Permanently authorize the SSG Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program

Pass H.R. 3627 – Justice for America's Veterans and Survivors Act

Pass S. 3346 – Freedom to Heal Act

Pass H.R. 4837/S. 3314 Written Informed Consent Act

Balance Community Care

The American Legion supports the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) as the primary coordinator of care, with community care as a necessary option when VA services are unavailable.

Congress Must:

- Protect access to community care
- Strengthen VA-community provider coordination
- Expand transportation options
- Improve oversight of the Office of Community Care
- Expand telehealth through partnerships and rural broadband grants

Pass S. 275/H.R. 740 – Veterans ACCESS Act

Pass H.R. 1107 – Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act



Improving Compensation & Pension Exam Processes

Compensation and Pension (C&P) exams are the gateway to VA health care and disability benefits. Inconsistent quality of Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs), often due to insufficiently trained or unqualified examiners, has created barriers and unequal access for veterans within a system that now fulfills 93% of VA exam demand at a cost of approximately \$5 billion annually.

Congress Must:

- Improve examiner qualifications and training
- Strengthen quality control and oversight of DBQs

Pass S. 2493 – Medical Disability Examination Improvement Act of 2025

Improve Care for Women Veterans

Women are the fastest-growing veteran population, totaling 2.3 million nationwide. Many face age-related and service-connected health challenges that remain under-researched.

Congress Must:

- Invest in gender-specific care at the DoD and VA
- Increase research on reproductive health

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

Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity

National Guard and Reserve members serve at home and abroad yet lack equal access to earned education benefits.

Pass H.R. 1423 – Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025

Strengthen Defense, Honor Service

Rising costs of living and limited access to services undermine retention, recruitment and readiness.

Congress Must:

- Pass FY27 NDAA amendments addressing housing, dining facilities, childcare, spouse employment, and education benefits
- Correct an inequity for combat-injured, medically retired veterans by authorizing full concurrent receipt of DoD retirement pay and VA disability compensation

Pass H.R. 1827/S. 847 – Child Care Availability and Affordability Act

Pass H.R. 2102/S. 1032 – Major Richard Star Act

