

JULY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Madeline "Maddie" Cunningham-Colston, Chairman

Hello, Sisters and Brothers! I had a great Fourth of July celebrating the birth of our nation with my family and VFW friends -- I hope you did, too. I'm eager to see us get this Program kicked into high gear, and responding to an **Action Alert** is just the way to get going! The VFW has issued an **Alert** asking that we contact our legislators to urge revision of the *Take Care of America's Veterans Act*, because it would unjustly reduce VA disability ratings for tinnitus and sleep apnea to pay for other veterans' benefits: cutting disability compensation payments by approximately \$57 billion over ten years, affecting up to 1.5 million veterans.

If you have Internet access, please take all of 30 seconds to go to this link and send the emails: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns/138035/Respond>. You'll get confirmation the emails went to your Representative and both Senators. To help all of our members who do not have Internet connectivity, I have attached copies of both the House and the Senate letters -- please copy for your members and have them sign so they can be mailed in. Your Auxiliary Legislative Chairmen could pass them out during a meeting, collect the signed copies and then mass-mail them off in several envelopes. Of course, a quick report in our Department website would finish your action perfectly.

A brief tutorial is in order on how a bill can become a law -- I have attached an excellent description from our National website that highlights how a bill moves through the federal legislative process. Our Legislative experts in Washington monitor and track legislation related to veterans, active military and their families. When bills are still in the committee phase, the VFW can provide testimony and be a tremendous advocate for legislation that will improve the lives of veterans, active military and their families.

- Project Idea: Collaborate with your Youth Activities Chairman: Use the Auxiliary's "Guide To The Legislative Process" as the basis for a talk with students about how bills become law.

Take just a moment of your time now: there are many legislative 'events' and actions you can jot down in the report form online: Did Members vote in the June primary, or serve as poll workers? Did any Members send e-mails, faxes, and letters or make a phone call to any elected official regarding any veterans-related topic? Did a Member attend a local city or county council meeting where a Veterans' Commission has been established? These are all things that can be reported for the Legislative Program. Remember you can always call me or drop me a line if you have any questions.

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**Legislative Program
Goals:**

**VFW Priority Goals
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