

VFW ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

Take Care of America's Veterans Act (H.R. 9237/S.4744)

Flood Social Media

Part 4

Campaign Update

Over the course of this campaign, VFW members, Auxiliary members, veterans, family members, caregivers, survivors, and supporters have sent more than 90,000 messages to Congress opposing the use of future veterans' disability compensation to pay for other veterans' benefits.

While the House and Senate were on recess back in their home districts, advocates kept working. They made phone calls, shared campaign materials, attended in-district meetings and spoke directly with lawmakers and their staff.

Our focus: **Flood social media with our message to drown out the pro-TCAVA messaging. Encourage all VFW and Auxiliary members in your department to share posts and tag your elected officials. Also, keep pushing the Action Alert and let's break 100,000 messages!**

Where Things Stand

There have been no announced changes to the *Take Care of America's Veterans Act* while the House and Senate have been away from Washington.

The bill remains active. When lawmakers return, congressional leaders could bring it back for a vote, revise it or pursue another path forward. We must be ready for any of those possibilities.

The House returns for votes on Monday, August 31. The Senate returns for regular business on Monday, September 14.

A quiet period in Congress is not a reason for veterans to be quiet. This is the time to keep the drumbeat strong and make sure lawmakers understand exactly what is at stake.

If this legislation returns, no member of Congress should be able to say they did not know what Section 108 would do or where veterans stood. Keep educating lawmakers, keep speaking publicly and keep the pressure on.

Our Focus

Key Messages

Keep repeating these four top-line messages:

- Cutting veterans' benefits is a choice. Don't choose it.
- They're serving today. Don't cut their benefits tomorrow.
- "Current veterans are protected" isn't good enough.
- Veterans. Caregivers. Survivors. We all deserve better than this.

Supporting messages:

- Congress CAN expand benefits without cutting future veterans' compensation.
- Budget rules do not make this outcome inevitable.
- Veterans with the same service-connected condition should not be treated differently because they filed claims on different dates.
- Veterans, caregivers, and survivors should not be forced to compete for support.
- Remove Section 108

Take Action

1. Call Congress at 202-224-3121 (Capitol Switchboard)

Call your Representative and both U.S. Senators.

Ask them to oppose any legislation that pays for veterans' benefits by reducing future veterans earned disability compensation.

Sample Phone Script

Hello, my name is _____. I am a veteran, a VFW/Auxiliary member and a constituent from _____.

I'm calling about the Take Care of America's Veterans Act. I support expanding benefits, but I oppose Section 108 and its cuts to future veterans' disability compensation.

Congress can choose to remove Section 108 and pass the provisions veterans need without making future disabled veterans pay for them. I'm asking the representative/senator to oppose the bill unless Section 108 is removed.

Thank you.

2. Share on Social Media

Keep sharing and commenting so this issue stays visible while Congress returns to Washington.

Use the four graphics and caption options in this toolkit to:

- Post at least 3 times each week.
- Repost and comment on VFW national content.
- Add a personal or local connection when possible.
- Ask other veterans and supporters to share.
- Keep the focus on Section 108 and the choice Congress is making, not partisan politics.
- Tag your representative and both U.S. senators, for example @RepBost, using their official social media accounts. Tagging them helps put the message directly in front of lawmakers and their staff and makes one thing clear: their constituents are paying attention to what they say, what they do and how they vote.

You do not need to use every graphic immediately. Rotate them throughout the campaign and keep posting until Congress removes Section 108.

1. Cutting veterans benefits is a choice. Don't choose it.



Option 1:

Cutting veterans' benefits is a choice, not a requirement.

Congress can help today's veterans without making future disabled veterans pay the bill.

Remove Section 108.

Option 2:

Budget rules do not force Congress to reduce future disability compensation for veterans with service-connected tinnitus or sleep apnea. That is a choice, not a requirement.

Congress created PAYGO, and Congress has changed, waived, and adjusted its budget rules when it chose to do so.

Lawmakers should not hide this choice behind a budget rule. Remove Section 108 and pass the provisions veterans need without making future disabled veterans pay for them.

2. They're serving today. Don't cut their benefits tomorrow.



Option1:

Today's service members are tomorrow's veterans.

They should not come home to fewer benefits because Congress changed the rules while they were still serving.

Remove Section 108.

Option 2:

The men and women serving today do not yet know what injuries, illnesses, or long-term health consequences they may carry home.

They are serving with the understanding that if military service leaves them injured or ill, this country will take care of them. Congress should not weaken that promise before they even have the opportunity to file a VA claim.

They are serving today. Don't cut their benefits tomorrow. Remove Section 108.

3. "Current veterans are protected" isn't good enough.



Option 1:

"Current veterans are protected" leave the next veteran behind.

Veterans with the same service-connected condition should not receive different treatment simply because they filed their claims on different dates.

Remove Section 108.

Option 2:

Protecting existing disability ratings does not solve the problem.

Not every service-connected condition appears when someone leaves the military. Some veterans will not understand the full effects of their service for years. Others are still serving and have not become veterans yet.

Grandfathering current ratings does nothing for them. Veterans' benefits should not depend on whether someone filed a claim before or after Congress changed the rules.

"Current veterans are protected" is not good enough. We must protect the veteran who needs us tomorrow, too. Remove Section 108.

4. VETERANS. CAREGIVERS. SURVIVORS.

We all deserve better than this.



Option 1:

Veterans, caregivers, and survivors should never be forced to compete for support.

Congress CAN help one group without taking from another.

We all deserve better than this. Remove Section 108.

Option 2:

Veterans, caregivers, and survivors may rely on different benefits, but they are all

Part of the same promise our country makes to those who serve and the families who stand beside them.

Congress should not strengthen support for one group by weakening it for another. Veterans, caregivers, and survivors are not competing line items in a budget.

Pass the provisions that are needed without cutting future veterans' disability benefits. We all deserve better than this. Remove Section 108.

Responding on Social Media

Not everyone will agree with you, and that's okay.

Stay respectful, stick to the facts and bring the conversation back to the choice before Congress:

Congress can expand benefits without cutting future veterans' disability compensation.

“PAYGO requires Congress to include this offset.”

Budget rules do not require Congress to take the money from future disabled veterans.

Congress created these rules and has changed, waived and adjusted them before. Lawmakers can choose a different path now.

“So you're against the Major Richard Star Act?”

No. The VFW supports the *Major Richard Star Act* and the other provisions that would help veterans, caregivers and survivors.

We oppose Section 108 and the decision to make future disabled veterans pay for those provisions.

“Current veterans are protected.”

Protecting existing ratings does not protect the veteran who files tomorrow.

Some service-connected conditions do not become fully apparent until years after military service. Today's service members have not even become veterans yet.

They deserve protection, too.

“It only affects tinnitus and sleep apnea.”

Tinnitus and sleep apnea affect real veterans and service members.

The concern is also larger than two conditions. Congress would be accepting reduced future disability compensation as a way to fund veterans' legislation.

That is not a precedent veterans should accept.

“The bill would help millions of veterans.”

The number of people who may benefit does not answer the central question: Who is being asked to pay?

The VFW supports helping veterans, caregivers and survivors. We oppose taking the money from future disabled veterans.

Congress can do both.

“The savings go back to the Treasury.”

Where the money is recorded does not change where the savings come from.

The federal government would spend less because future veterans would receive less disability compensation than they otherwise would.

That is the choice we oppose.

“Congress has to pay for the bill somehow.”

How Congress funds legislation is a choice.

Veterans’ disability compensation should not be used as the offset for veterans’ legislation. Remove Section 108 and choose another path.

“The bill does a lot of good.”

We agree. That is why Congress should pass the provisions veterans need without attaching Section 108.

Supporting the benefits does not require supporting the pay-for.

“You’re standing in the way of helping veterans.”

We are fighting for all veterans, including those still serving and those who will file claims in the future.

Helping one generation should not require taking from the next.

“I support the bill.”

I support many of its provisions, too.

I am asking Congress to remove Section 108 and pass the bill without cutting future veterans’ disability compensation.

Quick Replies

These work well on Facebook, Instagram, X and Threads:

- Cutting veterans’ benefits is a choice. Don’t choose it.
- Remove Section 108.
- Supporting the benefits does not require supporting the pay-for.
- Today’s service members are tomorrow’s veterans.
- “Current veterans are protected” leaves the next veteran behind.
- Congress can expand benefits without cutting future veterans’ compensation.
- Helping one generation should not require taking from the next.
- The savings come from future veterans receiving less.
- Veterans, caregivers and survivors should not be forced to compete for support.
- Every vote is a choice. Veterans are paying attention.