

Government Affairs Report

June 25, 2017

VA Announces Plan to Cut Thousands From Elderly Veterans Benefits

May 24th, 2017 VA officials defended plans to strip tens of thousands of dollars in unemployment benefits from elderly veterans as responsible reforms to the department's growing budget, but veterans and advocates promised to fight the idea.

Included in President Trump's \$186.5 billion VA budget for fiscal 2018 — a nearly 6 percent boost in discretionary spending from this year — are plans to dramatically cut the department's Individual Unemployability program.

Under current regs, the IU program awards payouts at the 100 percent disabled rate to veterans who cannot find work due to service-connected injuries, even if actual rating is less than 100 percent.

Administration officials want to stop those payouts once veterans are eligible for Social Security retirement benefits, arguing those individuals should no longer qualify for unemployment benefits. Veterans who cannot collect Social Security would be exempt. This could possibly impact up to up to 225,000 veterans over the age of 60, at least 7,000 of whom are over 80 years of age.

These veterans earned a lifetime disability benefit for their service to this nation. They did not ask to become disabled or to become unemployable as a result of their injuries or wounds. Our nation owes it to them to keep its promise, so they may continue to make ends meet.

If veterans lose their IU, it would also trigger the loss of:

- Civilian Health & Medical Program of the VA (CHAMPVA)
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Chapter 35 Educational Benefits for the family
- Commissary privileges
- Property tax relief
- VA Dental & Vision Care
- Vehicle exemption fees

Following a House Veterans' Affairs Committee budget hearing on May 24, 2017 VA Secretary David Shulkin said "There are always hard decisions that have to be made." "Sometimes that means you have to adjust current programs to support the growth of other benefits. That's what we're seeing here." "I don't think we can continue to only expand services and not look at the ones we are delivering ... I think people can understand paying veterans who are above age 80 unemployment benefits isn't what makes sense to the average American."

The argument is being made that for veterans who aren't already retirement age, the change could largely be offset by their new Social Security payouts. However it is far from being that simple.

However for veterans already receiving both, it will mean a sudden loss of a significant income source. The IU payouts can total more than \$22,000 a year for some veterans.

Shulkin said the move, which is expected to save \$3.2 billion next year alone, is proof that "we're trying to refine our approaches to use our resources efficiently."

This plan would reduce spending in the Veterans Benefits Administration to increase spending in the Veterans Health Administration.

Advocates called it an unconscionable attack on older veterans, one that completely abandons many of the most severely disabled veterans of the Vietnam generation and could make thousands of elderly veterans homeless," according to John Rowan, national president of Vietnam Veterans of America. VFW National Commander Brian Duffy said his membership likes many parts of the budget "we are absolutely against forcing wounded, ill and injured veterans to pay for improvements elsewhere within the VA." AMVETS released a statement Wednesday demanding the IU provision be dropped, labeling

it "stealing" benefits from veterans. The Fleet Reserve Association is urging its members to use the FRA Action Center to ask their legislators to oppose these benefit cuts.

In a June 12, 2017 bipartisan letter addressed to U.S. Department of Secretary Veteran Affairs David Shulkin, 57 members of the House of Representatives publicly declared that they "strongly oppose" the proposed cut to Individual Unemployability (IU). It was signed by 4 Representatives from NJ – Donald Norcross (NJ-1), Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5), Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-6) and Donald M. Payne, Jr. (NJ-10).

VA Backs Away From Plan to Cut Thousands From Elderly Veterans Benefits

June 14, 2017 the VA shelved a proposal that would have cut the Individual Unemployability benefit for elderly and disabled veterans.

"To withdraw this benefit from people who rely on that money would be very difficult to do," VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin said at a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing. Shulkin said that the proposal to cut IU came from an effort to make more efficient use of department funding, but it soon "became clear that this would be hurting some veterans, and I'm really concerned about that. I'm not going to pursue policies that hurt veterans."

The proposal to cut the benefit, which VA officials said averages about \$1,600 a month, to about 330,000 veterans provoked furious opposition from those receiving it and from veterans service organizations.

The American Legion applauded "Secretary Shulkin's reversal on cutting funds" for the benefit. "Since the president's FY-18 Department of Veterans Affairs budget request was submitted, we have been inundated with calls by veterans and family members who expressed alarm over the proposed cuts to their benefits and livelihoods," according to Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt in a statement.

However, Carl Blake of the Paralyzed Veterans of America said he isn't sure that Shulkin has totally backed away from the IU cut proposal. He notes that the projected \$3 billion in savings from the proposed IU cuts were slated to be used to expand the VA Choice program on private care. "If we assume that's not going to happen," he said of the proposed IU cuts, "that's \$3 billion that has to be addressed. So where do we go from here?"

John Rowan, national president of Vietnam Veterans of America, called on members of Congress and the VA to join in a public announcement that the IU cut proposal has been scrapped and will not be revived. He said such a move is necessary to ease the concerns of elderly vets who fear they could lose their homes from the loss of income. "They've been climbing the walls," he said.

The veteran service organizations have been deluged with calls from IU recipients who urged them to fight the proposal.

Carlos Fuentes, legislative director of the 1.7 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars, reported that VFW members had sent 40,000 letters of protest to members of Congress. He called the IU proposal an effort to "balance the budget on the backs of our nation's veterans."

Trump Administration acknowledges proposed cuts to Individual Unemployability a Non-Starter

It was a bad idea to begin with, unworkable and essentially uncaring for almost a quarter of a million veterans over the age of 62," said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, referring to a provision in the President's \$186.5 billion budget proposal for FY18 that would take thousands of dollars in Individual Unemployability (IU) benefits from the most vulnerable of veterans. "Now the administration has seen the light and retreated from their poorly-reasoned plan."

"Here at VVA, we have been deluged by calls from our members," Rowan said. "They are concerned. They are scared. Some are angry. They fear a personal financial disaster that could cost them their house, their savings, their very life."

"The administration's plan was, in effect, to take from Peter to pay for Paul, to eviscerate the IU program to make available funds to enhance and expand the so-called Choice program, to the tune of \$3.2 billion in FY'18," noted Rowan.

"Just as an avalanche of calls and e-mails struck all through the VSO and MSO community, so too did VVA and our fellow organizations send letters and offer firm and focused testimony blasting the proposal at a Senate hearing," Rowan said.

"Once the politically astute in the administration recognized the folly of cutting benefits, which could cost certain veterans almost \$20,000 a year, they reversed field, acknowledging that theirs was a non-starter, and that Congress wasn't going to go along with the proposal," Rowan concluded.

Plans to End The Choice Program?

According to a June 13, 2017 New York Post article by Betsy McCaughey titled "New VA secretary is already undermining veterans' health", Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin told Congress that he plans to end the CHOICE program, a setback for vets stuck on waitlists for medical care. Part of the problem may be related to running out of money. The Choice Act was due to end this July or when the money runs out. Congress passed legislation to ignore the July date and allow the program to continue until the funds were expended. Initially it was thought that would carry the program until next January. It now appears the funding will be gone shortly.

Rounding Down Cost-Of-Living Adjustments To Veterans Benefits

Administration officials have also proposed rounding down cost-of-living adjustments to veterans benefits next year, a practice that would take no more than \$12 from an individual vet in annual payouts but could save the government \$20 million next year.

Congress Gets Plan to Replace VA 'Choice' with 'CARE' Plan

June 7, 2017 the nation's largest veteran groups joined key senators to endorse conditionally a plan from VA Secretary David J. Shulkin to replace the 2014 VA Choice program, which critics contend often has failed to provide timely access to private sector care when VA healthcare isn't readily available.

Initially VA's plan to fund the Choice replacement plan was by cutting disability compensation paid through the Individual Unemployability (IU) program to 208,000 severely disabled veterans, those ages 62 and older who also are eligible for at least minimum social security benefits. However, veteran groups adamantly oppose that concept and at least for now, the idea seems to be dead in the water.

In testimony before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Shulkin unveiled his replacement for Choice, titled the Veterans Coordinated Access and Rewarding Experiences (CARE) Program. CARE would have the familiar features of a managed care program, with VA healthcare providers assigned to patients and deciding, based on clinical needs, whether to treat patients inside VA or refer them to an outside network of private sector care providers under contract to VA.

VA is asking Congress to scrap the "arbitrary" mandates established under Choice to offer access to private sector healthcare if veterans reside more than 40 miles from a VA hospital, or a VA clinic staffed by a primary care provider, or if they must wait longer than 30 days for access to VA care after seeking an appointment.

After some intense grilling by Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) Shuilkin noted that patient choice to seek community care or to stay in VA would be preserved under CARE because, he said, VA care providers

wouldn't be implementing the program properly if they simply mandated the source of care for patients.

Rounds suggested veterans in his rural state finally are seeing the Choice plan work for them, relying now local healthcare providers because they reside more than 40 miles from a VA facility, "which is a lot of South Dakota."

If those same veterans are required again to consult with a VA provider, either in person or by phone, to get permission to seek outside care, "it doesn't sound like it's a joint decision," according to Rounds.

Also, under the CARE plan, if a local VA facility can't treat a patient, the VA provider would grant permission to use the outside provider network, either inviting the patient to find a community care provider or providing help with a referral.

Rounds wasn't persuaded that patients under CARE wouldn't be pulled back into VA and have to rely again on long trips to VA hospital or clinics. He noted that Congress enacted a law that, starting in 2010, required VA to cover private sector emergency care of veterans enrolled in VA, even if they had other health insurance.

Appellate courts have ruled in the Staab case that VA ignored the law and kept regulations in place that denied emergency care reimbursements to thousands of veterans because they had other health insurance. Many of those treated for emergency conditions not related to their time in service got stuck with hefty bills.

The fact that VA continues to appeal the Staab decision suggests that the department will seek to control community-based healthcare costs, regardless of the impact on patients, Rounds told the VA secretary.

Shulkin reported he has ordered regulations prepared to enforce to the Staab decision, but that will take up to nine more months and it might be a year before payments can begin. Meanwhile, Shulkin said, VA is appealing the decision because \$2 billion is at stake, money VA needs to serve veterans who have greater needs.

"Everybody at VA now knows they are to write those rules and get this fixed as soon as possible," Shulkin said. "We are agreeing to pay these bills on veterans who are not service connected and who have other health insurance." But, said Shulkin, "I'm going to take away from other parts of my budget that should be helping veterans that really need our help, that don't have other health insurance and are service connected. So, from the policy point of view, I believe the court made the wrong decision, and I'm going to fight that out in court."

Representatives of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans of America endorsed Shulkin's vision to drop Choice and its metrics of wait times and geographic distance, and use clinical need instead to determine whether to refer patients to community care.

These groups, however, urged Congress and the VA to produce annual Department of Veteran Affairs budgets that fully resource VA hospitals and clinics, so the department is able to care for more patients, while developing the kind of high-performing, integrated networks of community providers, federal agency partners, academic institutions that last year's Commission on Care endorsed.

These veteran groups said they believe Shulkin shares that vision, but VA can't be allowed to fund any of it by cutting IU compensation or other benefits. Shulkin responded he heard their "strong concerns" about the IU cuts and would take them "very seriously. Nobody wants to be taking away unnecessary benefits from veterans, and certainly not putting them into poverty," he said.

Shulkin said mandatory VA benefits have climbed by \$12 billion in the past two years, which justified a review to see if current benefits operate as intended.

Some senators on the committee embraced the CARE plan with enthusiasm, including chairman Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.). Ranking Democrat, Sen. Jon Tester (Mont.), called the current Choice

plan “a train wreck” that “hasn’t improved access. In fact, it’s made it worse. And in the process, it’s caused a lot of veterans and community [healthcare] providers to lose faith in the VA.”

And yet Tester and especially Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) are worried that portions of VA’s 2018 budget request and the CARE plan take dangerous steps toward privatizing VA care, despite Shulkin’s assurances that is not a goal. Tester noted the budget would boost funding next year for community-based care by 33 percent next year and for VA hospitals and clinics by only 1.2 percent.

“It doesn’t take very many budgets like that and...we’re privatizing the VA,” said Tester. Murray blasted a series of pilot programs VA seeks to fund as part of CARE to test concepts backed by advocates for privatizing veterans’ care and dismantling VA. One would create a VA health insurance plan as an alternative to VA care.

Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017

The House of Representatives passed the Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 on June 13 by a vote of 368-55. The Senate’s version of the bill had bipartisan support and passed by voice vote the week prior. The House vote was to pass the Senate bill. The bill will now go to President Trump for his signature, replacing an earlier version that Democrats had criticized as overly unfair to workers. President Trump has already indicated his support for the bill so there is little chance that the bill will not become a new law.

Here is what the President said regarding the VA Accountability bill:

“I wish today I could tell you I have the tools to do the right thing, to be able to remove those employees. I do not,” Shulkin said in a Senate subcommittee hearing. “So unfortunately, I need a new set of tools if I’m going to be held accountable for turning this system around and doing what we all want to do to serve veterans.”

The bill was also endorsed by VA Secretary David Shulkin.

Expedited Procedures for Removal, Suspension or Demotion

The bill would impact executives and employees of the VA. It will enact a quicker procedure for removing or demoting an employee.

The Senate bill that has now passed provides a longer appeal process than the bill passed by the House. The bill that has passed in Congress provides for 180 days in the appeal process instead of the 45 days in the original House bill. VA executives would be subject to a different and more strict standard than lower ranking employees as outlined below.

A removal, demotion or suspension of more than 14 days could still be appealed to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB). An appeal would have to be made within 10 days and an Administrative Judge of the MSPB would have to issue a decision within 180 days after the date of the appeal. The Judge would be required to uphold the decision by the VA Secretary if supported by substantial evidence. If supported, the penalty could not be mitigated.

If an employee prevails in an appeal, the employee would receive backpay.

Even if an employee files a grievance under the provisions of a union contract, instead of filing an appeal with the MSPB, the time limits in the bill would still apply.

There are also restrictions on paying an employee who has been demoted under the provisions of the bill. A person who is the subject of the action by the VA Secretary could not be placed on administrative leave during an appeal of the action. An employee would only receive pay if the employee reports for duty or is approved to use accrued unused annual, sick, family medical, military, or court leave.

Moreover, the new procedures would “supersede any collective bargaining agreement to the extent that such agreement is inconsistent with such procedures.”

Removing, Suspending or Demoting A Senior Executive

The bill would also have an impact on procedures for taking action against executives of the VA.

The bill enacts a quick procedure for removing or demoting an executive. As stated in the bill, “The aggregate period for notice, response...may not exceed 15 business days.” Also, the VA Secretary is to ensure that the grievance process takes fewer than 21 days.

A person covered by this procedure will be entitled to obtain judicial review of such decision.

Recouping Bonus Payments

The bill also allows the agency to recoup bonus payments made to an employee if the Secretary determines that the individual engaged in misconduct or poor performance prior to payment of the award or bonus. Also, the Secretary would have to determine that the award or bonus would not have been paid if the misconduct or poor performance had been known prior to the agency making the payment.

Authority to Recoup Relocation Expenses

A similar provision applies to relocation expenses paid by the VA to an employee.

The VA Secretary will be entitled under this bill to issue an order directing an employee of the Department to repay the amount, or a portion of the amount, paid to or on behalf of the employee for relocation expenses if the expenses were paid following an act of fraud or malfeasance that influenced the authorization of the expenses.

Position of Union Representing VA Employees

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) is a federal employee union that represents a large number of employees in the VA.

In a press release, the union wrote:

...[T]he Senate bill will undercut the quality health care and services that veterans receive by eroding checks and balances that ensure hiring and firing decisions are based on merit.

(The bill) would undercut many of the workplace rights and protections that are designed to protect government workers from disciplinary actions that are politically or personally motivated. It is a politically motivated response to rare but highly publicized issues of misconduct that managers could address today with proper documentation and effort....

Federal employee unions have usually been strong supporters of Democrats during elections and have exhorted supporters to vote for their favored candidates; the union nevertheless expresses concern about the federal civil service system becoming a more political system.

While the Senate bill only targets VA workers, its passage would open the door to eliminating due process rights for all federal employees and politicizing the civil service.

“The importance of maintaining a nonpartisan, apolitical civil service in an increasingly partisan environment cannot be overstated....Whatever lack of public confidence in government exists today will be magnified a hundredfold if all civil servants become de facto political appointees, serving at the whim of supervisors. And that is exactly what this horrible piece of legislation will do.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs David J. Shulkin statement on passage of accountability bill

“I want to thank Senator Rubio, Chairmen Isakson and Roe and Ranking Members Tester and Walz for their hard work on passing this bill, fulfilling one of my highest priorities at the Department.

It’s common sense – we need to hold our employees accountable for their actions if they violate the public trust, and at the same time protect whistleblowers from retaliation,” said Dr. Shulkin. “This legislation will help us do just that.”

New Jersey Update

Bills Signed Into Law

S307 /A4362 Creates Veterans Diversion Program to divert eligible servicemembers away from criminal justice system and into appropriate case management and mental health services. 5/1/2017 Approved P.L.2017, c.42.

S1856/A3846 Provides for retained eligibility for members of NJ National Guard or reserve component of US Armed Forces called to active federal military service who met maximum age requirement at closing date of civil service examination. 5/1/2017 Approved P.L.2017, c.54.

S2857/A4403 Requires Adjutant General to create informational webpage for Gold Star families. 5/1/2017 Approved P.L.2017, c.58.

S750/A450 Wounded Warrior Caregivers Relief Act; Provides income tax credit to family caregivers of certain armed service members with physical disabilities. 5/11/2017 Approved P.L.2017, c.67.

S2726/A2805 Requires DMVA to develop online historic tour identifying locations of war battles and places of significance to war efforts in State. 5/11/2017 Approved P.L.2017, c.78.

S2491/A4019 Permits eligible students who are members of United States Armed Forces to wear military uniform at high school graduation. 5/11/2017 Approved P.L.2017, c.84.

AJR91/SJR71 Designates June 27 of each year as "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day." 6/9/2017 Approved P.L.2017, JR-7

Passed by the Assembly May 22, 2017

S726/A4460 Extends full protection of Law Against Discrimination to persons having liability for service in Armed Forces of United States; guarantees equal employment opportunity in State contracting to all veterans.

A4195/S3057 Removes time of war requirements for receipt of distinguished service medal; codifies qualifications for receipt of meritorious service medal.

Passed by the Assembly June 8, 2017

A306/S2017 "New Jersey Housing Assistance for Veterans Act," establishes pilot program to assist certain veterans with housing modification and rehabilitation; appropriates \$5 million.

A2212 Grants credit against business income taxes to developer of rental housing reserved for occupancy by veterans

A3009 Prohibits permanent change of child custody during period of active military service; provides that absence due to active military duty, by itself, is insufficient justification to modify a child custody or visitation order.

A4171/S2584 Establishing New Jersey Commission on Veterans' Benefits in DMVA.

Introduced in the Assembly

A4978 Provides for retained eligibility for members of NJ National Guard or reserve component called to active federal military service who met fire department maximum age requirement at closing date of civil service examination.

A4991 Waives boat safety course requirement for veterans and active duty members of military with maritime training.

ACR 245 Proposes constitutional amendment to extend property tax deduction or exemption to qualified veterans who lease land in unincorporated communities.

Passed by the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

A2758 Permits certain health care professionals to waive health insurance copayments for members of military serving on active duty. Reported from Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee 6/12/2017 with Amendments, 2nd Reading.

Passed by the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee May 25, 2017

S745 Permits county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages to create Gold Star Parent identification card. Reported 2nd reading.

S2105 Creates exemption from certain MVC fees for prisoners of war. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

SJR84 Recognizes 100th anniversary of Fort Dix. Reported 2nd reading.

SR106 Urges President and Congress of United States to reintroduce and enact S.3009 of the 114th Congress, "National Guard and Reserve Entrepreneurship Support Act of 2016." Reported 2nd reading.

Passed by the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee June 15, 2017

S312 Establishes grant program for homeless veterans shelters. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

S434 Exempts storage facility space furnished to active duty military personnel from sales and use tax. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

S2593 Establishes Veterans Assistance Grant Program for nonprofit organization to provide certain services to veterans. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

S2653 The New Jersey Battlefield to Boardroom Act; Provides corporation business tax credits and gross income tax credits for qualified wages of certain veterans. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

SR13 Urges President and Congress to enact legislation designating National September 11 Memorial and Museum as national memorial. Reported 2nd reading.

Passed by the Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Committee June 5, 2017

A305 The New Jersey Battlefield to Boardroom Act; Provides corporation business tax credits and gross income tax credits for qualified wages of certain veterans. Reported with amendments, 2nd reading.

A445 Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for the NJ World War II Veterans' Memorial Fund. Reported 2nd reading.

A770 Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for maintenance of certain State memorials honoring war veterans. Reported 2nd reading.

A4366 Provides for increase and annual adjustment in allowance paid to war veterans with certain service-connected disabilities. Reported 2nd reading.

A1540 Authorizes special Support Our Veterans license plate with proceeds supporting New Jersey homeless veteran's centers.

A1814 Provides post-traumatic stress disorder from military service during combat may be mitigating factor during sentencing. Reported 2nd reading.

A4161 Creates New Jersey Military Working Dog Handler and Military Working Dog medal. Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

ACR 13 Urges Congress to enact reforms addressing sexual harassment and assault in United States Armed Forces. Reported 2nd reading.

Passed by the Senate – June 19, 2017

A4401/S2854 Authorizes certain benefits for certain family members of military personnel who died while on active duty.

S745 Permits county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages to create Gold Star Parent identification card.

S2883 Extends eligibility for veterans' property tax deduction and disabled veterans' property tax exemption to members of the United States Armed Forces assigned to the rescue and recovery mission at the World Trade Center between September 11, 2001 and May 30, 2002.

SJR84 Recognizes 100th anniversary of Fort Dix.

Passed by the Senate June 22, 2017

A374/S2114 Allows "100 percent Disabled Veterans" to receive parking privileges reserved for persons with disability.

A4011/S2887 Designates USS New Jersey as New Jersey State Ship.

A4399/S2858 Establishes Gold Star Family Counseling Program in DMVA; creates tax credit for certain health care professionals. Senate amendment passed.

S726 Extends full protection of Law Against Discrimination to persons having liability for service in Armed Forces of United States; guarantees equal employment opportunity in State contracting to all veterans.

S1497/A3225 Designates Killed in Action flag as an official State flag; mandates it be displayed at certain public buildings.

S1660/A770 Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for maintenance of certain State memorials honoring war veterans.

S1661/A445 Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for the NJ World War II Veterans' Memorial Fund.

Passed by the Assembly June 22, 2017

A444/S1661 Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for the NJ World War II Veterans' Memorial Fund.

A770/S1660 Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for maintenance of certain State memorials honoring war veterans.

A1540 Authorizes special Support Our Veterans license plate with proceeds supporting New Jersey homeless veteran's centers.

A2729/S1750 Establishes special motorcycle license plates for veterans.

A3149 Provides for special Bronze Star license plates.

A3150 Authorizes veterans property tax exemption for totally disabled veterans who did not serve in theater of war.

A3225/S1497 Designates Killed in Action flag as an official State flag; mandates it be displayed at certain public buildings.

A4096/S1359 Guarantees full and equal access to all housing to disabled persons who retain their retired service or guide dog as a pet, and who also obtain a new service or guide dog.

A4366 Provides for increase and annual adjustment in allowance paid to war veterans with certain service-connected disabilities.

ACR13 Urges Congress to enact reforms addressing sexual harassment and assault in United States Armed Forces.

AJR20 Designates July 1 of each year as "U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps Day."

Additional votes are scheduled for June 26th and 29th in both chambers.

Robert E. McNulty, Sr.
Government Affairs Chairman