

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



Time waits for no one, that is an absolute certainty. Sometimes it may seem to drag, other times it flies but in fact, it is always moving at the same pace, it is our life experiences that at any given moment that makes it seem otherwise. Certainly, the loss of a loved one slows everything down as we process grief and try to continue our lives without them. Memories, photos, stories all help in that process. I had the opportunity at our January meeting to take part in the memorial of our chapter members who passed during 2025. It was my first attendance at this event, and it was very moving. The presence of Father John Licari, Pastor of St John the Evangelist added reverence to the ceremony. The reading of each name along with a memory of the person's life. Finally, the ringing of the bell signifying a final farewell to our friend and comrade. For me it was very meaningful and if you haven't had the opportunity, I encourage you to attend next year.

I have chosen a few articles from recent weekly MOAA newsletters, I hope you enjoy them and take action where appropriate.

You can support those efforts by being part of the action. A way to do that is to sign up for the MOAA legislative alerts visit https://moaa.quorum.us/sign_in/ .

To help you stay informed about issues, please consider subscribing to the MOAA Newsletter which is sent out two to four times per month on Thursdays via email. You can sign up at www.moaa.org. Please let me know how you think I can make this column better for you by sending an email to me at dave.mitchell@pmoaa.org .

Also, if you are not aware, the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) publishes a newsletter every other month. It can be viewed here at <https://flmoaa.org/news/>

Your voice needs to be heard by our Florida Congressional Delegation. Please use some or all of the links available within this Legislative Affairs column and subscribe to the automatic notifications I mentioned above. The Pensacola Chapter of MOAA is a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, FCoC at flmoaa.org and an affiliate of the [Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](#) who together are the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. MOAA has several critical legislative issues they are championing. Become an advocate and **Take Action NOW!** at <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

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MOAA Shares Legislative Priorities at Congressional Reception

By MOAA Staff

From January 22nd MOAA Newsletter

MOAA hosted members of Congress, executive branch officials, Hill staffers, and valued supporters Jan. 14 for a reception marking the start of the second session of the 119th Congress.

The event, held at The Monocle Restaurant on Capitol Hill, also served as an opportunity to share MOAA's top legislative priorities for the upcoming year.

"Bringing stakeholders together on Capitol Hill fosters the collaboration required to move shared priorities forward," said Maj. Gen. April Vogel, USAF (Ret), MOAA's vice president of Government Relations. "This reception created space for constructive dialogue, strengthened relationships, and kept the focus where it belongs: on servicemembers, veterans, their families, and survivors."

Every attendee also received a list of "[MOAA's New Year's Resolutions for Congress](#)." These bills will serve as top focus areas for our association's advocacy efforts in 2026.

Learn more about these bills, and how you can support MOAA's work to pass them, below. Note: This is not an all-encompassing list of MOAA's legislative efforts. For more, visit our [Legislative Action Center](#).

Shutdown Fairness Act ([S. 3168](#))

What it does: Allows the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security to continue paying servicemembers during any future funding lapse

Who it supports: Currently serving, including National Guard and Reserve members.

MOAA's take: The best solution remains a timely appropriations process. The bills does NOT include members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or the NOAA Commissioned Corps; MOAA continues to advocate for their inclusion.

How you can help: [Click here](#) and send a letter to your lawmakers now.

Improve and Enhance the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Act ([H.R. 6231](#) | [S. 3265](#))

What it does: Modernizes the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), a nonrefundable tax credit employers can take for hiring target group members during the employee's first year on the job, by increasing the amount of the credit and adding military spouses as a target group. The program is intended to reduce the unemployment rate of "job seekers who have consistently faced barriers to employment" by incentivizing employers with a tax credit, according to the Labor Department.

Who it supports: Unemployed veterans and military spouses.

MOAA's take: MOAA has long championed this program, and the addition of military spouses. Continuing to offer this tax credit to employers while enhancing the program will ensure the veteran unemployment rate remains low. Expanding this benefit to military spouses improves financial stability for the currently serving military family, increasing military readiness and retention rates.

How you can help: [Click here](#) and send a letter to your lawmakers now.

Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732)

What it does: Reinstates criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees while assisting veterans with filing a claim for VA disability compensation benefits.

Who it supports: Veterans and retirees.

MOAA's take: Veterans deserve trusted, ethical, and accountable support when filing disability claims — support that protects their privacy, respects their service, and preserves their earned compensation. The goal is not to limit veterans' ability to seek help, but to guarantee that when they do, the assistance comes from accredited professionals bound by high ethical and professional standards ... and that our veterans will not be forced to surrender a portion of the benefits they earned in service to the nation.

How you can help: Keep following [MOAA advocacy news](#). A call to action is coming soon.

Military CARE Act (H.R. 6796)

What it does: Requires the Pentagon to establish a digital system designed to improve access to care at military treatment facilities (MTFs) by providing beneficiaries with a standardized platform to report barriers to MTF care and creating a data record that does not exist today to give Defense Health Agency leadership and Congress the insights needed to address systemic access challenges.

Who it supports: All TRICARE beneficiaries, but especially military families.

MOAA's take: We advocated aggressively for this priority in 2025 as part of our spring Advocacy in Action campaign. Military families must have a more effective option for reporting access problems — an option that also increases transparency to beneficiary challenges and leads to greater accountability and oversight of the MHS.

How you can help: [Click here](#) and send a letter to your lawmakers now.

Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act (H.R. 2148 | S. 879)

What it does: Expands health care coverage and career transition support for caregivers, and would require a study designed to provide caregivers with a path toward financial security in retirement.

Who it supports: Millions of caregivers.

MOAA's take: "Just as our veterans answered the call to serve our nation, their caregivers also answered the call to step up and serve them," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA's president and CEO. "These dedicated individuals put their own futures on hold — sacrificing

financial security, career advancement, and personal well-being — to fulfill the nation's promise to take care of our veterans and provide the care veterans deserve.

How you can help: [Click here](#) and send a letter to your lawmakers now.

New Law Will Preserve Value of VA-Issued Life Insurance

By Kevin Lilley

From January 15th MOAA Newsletter

A new law will protect VA insurance programs for servicemembers and veterans from inflation, allowing for regular adjustments of the maximum coverage amount and ensuring meaningful peace of mind for those who've earned access to these plans.

The president signed the MOAA-backed Fairness for Servicemembers and Their Families Act into law Dec. 12. The bipartisan legislation passed the House by a voice vote in the spring, then cleared the Senate by unanimous consent in November.

“Bipartisan, commonsense improvements to trusted programs like this make a real difference,” said Jen Goodale, MOAA’s director of government relations for veteran and retired affairs.

“Protecting the value of these benefits is the core of MOAA advocacy — we thank the lawmakers from both sides of the aisle who made this change possible.”

[The law](#) requires the VA secretary to report to House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs committees on cost-of-living (COLA) increases and inflation rates every five years in relation to the maximum coverage allowed under the Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans’ Group Life Insurance (VGLI) programs. It links the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) to the current maximum of \$500,000 as a benchmark.

“Our servicemembers put their lives on the line for their country, and we must protect the well-being of their families in the event of a tragedy,” said Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-Wash.), who introduced the House bill, [in a press release](#). “This new law makes it clear that our nation will always stand by our military families.”

Senate supporters included Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), who led that chamber’s version of the bill. He said the bill would “help ensure the Veterans Affairs Department can offer competitive life insurance packages that keep pace with the current cost of living.”

SGLI launched in 1965 with a \$10,000 coverage maximum. VGLI began nine years later, allowing veterans to convert SGLI to a five-year term policy. It would later become a renewable, premium-based plan.

Maximum coverage levels for both plans have increased over the decades, but not in regular fashion. It rose from \$200,000 to \$250,000 in 2001 and to \$400,000 in 2005, but remained at that level for nearly two decades until a 2023 law boosted the limit to the current \$500,000.

By indexing the coverage maximum to inflation figures, the new law will preserve the value of the insurance program against inflationary threats, strengthening a safety net that has been used by millions of servicemembers and veterans throughout the decades.

Learn more about SGLI, VGLI, and other VA life insurance options [on the VA website](#). For more on MOAA's work to preserve the value of service-earned benefits, visit our [Legislative Action Center](#).

MOAA Leaders Meet With Military Health Officials to Discuss GLP-1 Coverage Change

By Karen Ruedisueli

From January 8th MOAA Newsletter

MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), and members of MOAA's Government Relations team met with senior military health system (MHS) leaders last month and urged them to reconsider the [decision to revoke TRICARE For Life \(TFL\) coverage](#) of some GLP-1 drugs.

MOAA requested the meeting after the White House [announced agreements](#) with pharmaceutical manufacturers Eli Lilly and Co. and Novo Nordisk to dramatically reduce the prices of GLP-1 drugs that help adults struggling with diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and other medical conditions.

TRICARE will benefit from the administration's newly negotiated lower prices for GLP-1 medications, Pentagon officials said. They indicated analyses are underway to determine how these reduced prices may affect the Defense Health Program budget and TFL coverage policy moving forward.

Kelly emphasized the extraordinary levels of engagement and outreach from both impacted patients who have lost GLP-1 coverage and other beneficiaries who fear future cuts to the retiree health care benefit. More than 600 TRICARE beneficiaries have contacted MOAA to share their feedback on the MHS decision to revoke coverage of certain GLP-1 drugs from TFL beneficiaries.

Share Your Story

MOAA's advocacy relies on the testimony and experiences of servicemembers and families impacted by changes to TRICARE policy. Have you, or someone you know, been affected by this change in TRICARE For Life coverage? Please share your story through Legislative Action Center at the link below.

[TELL MOAA](#)

Under the administration's new pricing framework, Medicare costs for Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro, and Zepbound will be \$245, less than half the previous cost. State Medicaid programs also will have access to these medications at these prices. Lower negotiated prices for Medicare and Medicaid patients may prompt expanded access through pilot programs as early as this spring.

For Medicare patients, pilot program coverage of GLP-1 medications will be under Medicare Part D prescription drug plans.

Before the Aug. 31, 2025, policy change that revoked GLP-1 coverage for TFL, beneficiaries who met stringent prior-authorization criteria — including documented comorbid conditions such as hypertension, sleep apnea, or metabolic dysfunction — could be approved for GLP-1 medications. TRICARE Prime and Select users retain this coverage with prior authorization, and all beneficiaries still receive GLP-1 coverage when the drug is prescribed for Type 2 diabetes.

MOAA continues to be a steadfast advocate for restoring GLP-1 coverage under TFL. Creating separate pharmacy tiers for TRICARE and TFL beneficiaries sets a troubling precedent that could weaken the promise of lifelong earned benefits and is inconsistent with congressional intent for TFL and the TRICARE pharmacy program.

As MOAA continues its advocacy, we encourage affected beneficiaries and their families to [share their stories](#) and engage through MOAA's Legislative Action Center to support efforts to restore full GLP-1 coverage for TFL beneficiaries.

New VA Survey Targets Toxic Exposures, Other Hazards of Service

By Kevin Lilley

From January 8th MOAA Newsletter

A new VA survey will gather details from veterans on toxic exposures and other military experiences as part of work to detect and treat related illnesses.

The VA's [Million Veteran Program](#) (MVP) will administer the survey to MVP members, asking questions about service and deployment history, jobs and activities both in and out of uniform, exposure to hazards ranging from toxic chemicals to loud sounds, and more.

MOAA and other military and veterans groups will use data from the survey to inform advocacy efforts, to include ongoing work supporting an improved toxic exposure benefits system at the VA. MOAA and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) partnered in 2024 on [an extensive report](#) outlining the decades-long delays regularly faced by toxic-exposed veterans and offering a comprehensive plan for the VA to provide service-earned care and benefits in a timely manner.

[\[READ THE REPORT: Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans\]](#)

The report came after the passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, which expanded VA health care and benefits to millions of veterans, added to the list of health conditions and service locations connected to toxic exposure, and boosted VA screening and research efforts.

To participate in MVP, veterans must allow the program to access health records and provide a blood sample by mail or through a VA appointment. [Learn more about the registration process](#) and some of the [program's other initiatives](#), and [find answers to frequently asked questions](#) about records access, privacy, and data security issues.

MVP launched in 2011 and [reportedly had enrolled nearly 1.1 million veterans](#) as of Nov. 20, 2025.

Veterans who have already signed up for MVP can access the survey after signing in [at the MVP website](#) and following the “Surveys” prompts.

**Compiled and Edited by
Captain Dave Mitchell, USN (Ret)**