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## **Legislation Endorsed by Veterans & Military Families for Progress for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress**

**Legislation titles in red indicate it has been designated as priority legislation.**

The following legislation has been recommended by the National Government Affairs Committee and approved by the Board for endorsement and ongoing VMFP support activities:

### **U.S. House of Representatives**

**H.R. 23** (S. 961) **Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007** - A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine

**H.R. 67** (S. 1314) **Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007** - To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 207 Depleted Uranium Screening and Testing Act** - To provide for identification of members of the Armed Forces exposed during military service to depleted uranium, to provide for health testing of such members, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 327 (S. 479) Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act** - To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans. **THIS BILL WAS ENACTED INTO LAW ON 11-5-07. It is now Public Law 110-110.**

**H.R. 440** (S. 288) **To amend titles 10 and 14, United States Code** - A bill to amend titles 10 and 14, United States Code, to provide for the use of gold in the metal content of the Medal of Honor.

**H.R. 612** (S. 383) **Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act of 2007** – A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release.

**H.R. 797** (S. 1163) **Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act** – To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation benefits for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes, to provide for the use of the National Directory of New Hires for income verification purposes, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide an educational assistance allowance for qualifying work study activities, and to authorize the provision of bronze representations of the letter "V" for the graves of eligible individuals buried in private cemeteries in lieu of Government-provided headstones or markers.

**H.R.1284** (S. 423) **Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007** - To increase, effective as of December 1, 2007, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. **THIS BILL WAS ENACTED INTO LAW ON 11-5-07. It is now Public Law 110-111.**

**H.R.1470** (H.R.1471, H.R.1554) **Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act** - To require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

**H.R. 1541 (S. 902) Coming Together for Guard and Reserve Families Act** - To provide support and assistance for families of members of the National Guard and Reserve who are undergoing deployment, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 1538 (is now included in H.R. 1585 ) Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007** - A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for members of the Armed Forces who are receiving medical care in an outpatient status, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 1585 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008** - To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 1632 Improving Veterans' Reemployment Act of 2007** - To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the annual report required on veterans' reemployment rights.

**H.R.1660 To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region** - Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery in El Paso County, Colorado. Requires a report from the Secretary to Congress on the establishment of the cemetery.

**H.R.2199 Traumatic Brain Injury Health Enhancement and Long-Term Support Act of 2007** - To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain improvements in the treatment of individuals with traumatic brain injuries, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 2239 Early Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits Act** – To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for vocational rehabilitation benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

**H.R. 2385 (S. 1409) 21st Century GI Bill of Rights Act of 2007** – A bill to provide and enhance education, housing, and entrepreneur assistance for veterans who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 2514 Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act** - To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care.

**H.R. 2642 (H.R.480, S.1645) Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2008** – Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 2689 Establish Program for Readjustment and Mental Health Services** for OIF/OEF veterans, and other purposes.

**H.R. 2874 Veterans' Health Care Improvement Act of 2007** – A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the provision of health care to veterans, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 3070 Disabled Veterans Caregiver Compensation Act** - to authorize additional compensation be paid to certain veterans in receipt of compensation for a service connected disability rated totally disabling for whom a family member dependent on the veteran for support provides care.

**H.R. 3167 Fair Mental Health Evaluation for Returning Veterans Act** – to impose a temporary moratorium on the discharge of members of the armed forces for personality disorder, except in certain specified cases.

## **U.S. Senate**

**S. 22 Post 9-11 Veterans Education Assistance Act** – to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the armed forces who serve in the armed forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

**S. 38 Veterans Mental Health, Outreach, and Access Act** - A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program for the provision of readjustment and mental health services to veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

**S. 288 (H.R. 440) A bill to increase the gold content in the initial issue of a Medal of Honor to 90%.** Requires the metal content of the Medal of Honor, awarded by the President to members of the Armed Forces and Coast Guard, to be 90 percent gold and ten percent alloy.

**S. 383 (H.R. 612) A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release.**

**S. 423 (H.R. 1284) Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007** – A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2007, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. **THIS BILL WAS ENACTED INTO LAW ON 11-5-07. It is now Public Law 110-111.**

**S. 479 (H.R. 329) Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act** – A bill to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans. **THIS BILL WAS ENACTED INTO LAW ON 11-5-07. It is now Public Law 110-110.**

**S. 713 (H.R.1538) Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act of 2007** - A bill to ensure dignity in care for members of the Armed Forces recovering from injuries.

**S. 723 Montgomery GI Bill enhancement for post-9/11 service members.** A bill to provide certain enhancements to the Montgomery GI Bill Program for certain individuals who serve as members of the Armed Forces after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and for other purposes.

**S. 902 (H.R. 1541) Coming Together for National Guard and Reserve Families Act of 2007** – A bill to provide support and assistance for families of members of the National Guard and Reserve who are undergoing deployment, and for other purposes.

**S. 961 (H.R. 23) Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007** – A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II, and for other purposes.

**S. 1163 Blinded Veterans Paired Organ Act (H.R. 797)** – to improve compensation and specially adapted housing for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes and to provide for the use of the National Directory of New Hires for income verification purposes.

**S. 1314 (H.R. 67) Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007** – A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

**S. 1409 (H.R. 2385) 21st Century GI Bill of Rights Act of 2007** - A bill to provide and enhance education, housing, and entrepreneur assistance for veterans who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

**S. 1606 (H.R.1538) Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act** - To provide for the establishment of a comprehensive policy on the care and management of wounded warriors in order to facilitate and enhance their care, rehabilitation, physical evaluation, transition from care by the Department of Defense to care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and transition from military service to civilian life, and for other purposes.

**S. 1817 Proper Administration of the Discharge of Members of the Armed Forces Personality Disorder** – and for other purposes.

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Note: This information is current as of Nov. 14, 2007.

For more information about these measures and how your lawmakers stand on these issues, visit the Library of Congress website at [www.thomas.gov](http://www.thomas.gov).

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**To get involved in VMFP actions in support of any these items, send an email to [president@vmfp.org](mailto:president@vmfp.org)**

*Veterans and Military Families for Progress is dedicated to ensuring that the rights and needs of veterans, active-duty service members, and their families are understood by the American public, endorsed by our elected officials, and protected by legislation, regulation and public policy initiatives. [www.vmfp.org](http://www.vmfp.org)*