



Department of Florida Legislative Update

July 17, 2026

Dear Comrades,

As we return to the free state of Florida, we want to share recent legislative developments from the past few weeks. VFW National Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore issued an "All Call" for Departments to send representatives to Washington, D.C., to oppose the *Take Care of America's Veterans Act* (TCAVA). In response, the Department of Florida sent a delegation to participate.

Some of you may be wondering why this legislation has divided many VSOs, why the VFW has taken such a firm position, and what impact the legislation would have as currently written. At the National Convention, the VFW previously adopted a proclamation opposing any legislation that reduces or eliminates existing earned veterans' benefits as a cost-saving or reallocation measure for the Department of Veterans Affairs or any affiliated government agency. We remain committed to those proclamations because they reflect the voice of our membership, not an outside agenda or individual preference. The VFW's opposition to TCAVA is primarily based on Section 108, which would reduce or eliminate future disability compensation for tinnitus and sleep apnea. Unfortunately, not all within the veteran community share the view that Congress has an obligation to care for current and future veterans and should not treat earned compensation as unrestricted funding to be adjusted as it sees fit.

While we consider our recent visit a success—we helped persuade enough members to prevent a floor vote on July 16th and send the legislation back to committee—we recognize this is only a temporary victory. Our work continues, and we ask each of you to help with this effort. District leadership should have received the "Support the Hill Mobilization from Home" toolkit. Please ensure it is shared with all members and the Auxiliary. The following quick talking points are provided for reference:

The VFW Urges Congress to:

Remove Section 108 of H.R.9237 / S.4744, *Take Care of America's Veterans Act*, and reject any provisions that reduce or offset future veterans' disability compensation to finance other legislation.

VOTE No to advance the *Take Care of America's Veteran Act* if Section 108 is not removed.

Pass a clean and complete *Major Richard Star Act* and other veterans' priorities without reducing earned disability benefits for current or future veterans.

Preserve the integrity of the VASRD by allowing disability rating changes to proceed through the established evidence-based regulatory process.

Reject the use of veterans' disability compensation as a budgetary pay-for and reaffirm that earned veterans' benefits are an obligation of the nation, not a source of savings to fund unrelated priorities.

Please contact me if you need more information about this matter or any legislative issue affecting our veteran community. It is an honor to serve as your Department Legislative Chair, and your legislative team remains committed to improving the lives of our veterans, their families, and the communities we serve.

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