

Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) is the nation's leading veterans service organization, dedicated to improving the total well-being of post-9/11 veterans, Service members, and their families.

Through advocacy and policy engagement, WWP® works to ensure that warriors' voices are heard and their needs are met. The following legislative priorities represent WWP's focus for the year ahead and the policies we believe are critical to ensuring no warrior is left behind.

MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT

Do Right by Combat Veterans: Pass the Major Richard Star Act, which would allow veterans with less than 20 years of service who were forced to medically retire due to combat-related injuries to receive both their full military retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation.



★ MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Innovative and Emerging Therapies: Invest in new treatment approaches that provide personalized, effective care for mental health and substance use disorders, including psychedelic-assisted therapy.

Access and Affordability: Pursue policies that connect veterans to high-quality mental health care and close workforce gaps, so they experience shorter wait times and more consistent treatment. Strengthen care for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders while reducing unnecessary prescriptions.

Suicide Prevention and Resiliency Building: Expand access to non-clinical support — including peer support networks and early intervention services that protect against suicide and support veterans' whole health.

★ SEVERELY WOUNDED, ILL, AND INJURED VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

Complex Case Management and Continuity of Care: Make systems of federal, state, and local care easier to navigate for those with the most severe injuries and illnesses.

Prosthetics and Adaptive Devices: Strengthen Department of Defense (DoD) and VA prosthetic care to help Service members and veterans reintegrate back into military service and the community more quickly and effectively.

Caregivers: Prioritize services for caregivers who support veterans with the highest needs, including help with retirement planning.

Benefits and Independence: Strengthen adaptive housing, vehicle, and accessibility programs that empower veterans to live independently and achieve the highest possible quality of life.

★ BRAIN HEALTH AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Prevention, Tracking, and Treatment: Advance policies to promote brain health, strengthen injury tracking and early intervention, and expand access to evidence-based treatment and recovery options for Service members and veterans.

Research and Development: Prioritize research into low-level blast and blast overpressure exposures. Support sustained congressional funding for evidence-based brain health and traumatic brain injury research to improve operational performance, strengthen force readiness, and reduce long-term brain health issues after service.

★ TOXIC EXPOSURE

Exposure-Related Claims: Improve VA's presumptive decision-making process to ensure faster, more transparent, and more consistent consideration of new illnesses for inclusion under the PACT Act.

Exposure Tracking and Prevention: Strengthen prevention, monitoring, and response to occupational and environmental hazards by expanding the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record and improving coordination with VA to ensure seamless exposure tracking across a Service member's career.

Cancer Care: Improve the quality of cancer care for exposed veterans through exposure-informed screening for early detection, more clinical trials, and enhanced care coordination.

★ ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Veteran Readiness & Employment (VR&E): Improve VR&E by expanding access for more disabled veterans, clarifying when the program can be used, increasing transparency in eligibility decisions, and strengthening VA staffing and training.

Employment: Create opportunities throughout the federal government to place veterans, including those with significant disabilities, in roles that leverage the skills and experience they developed in the military. Help improve processes at key career transition points, including military separation and improvement from long-term disability.

Housing and Homelessness: Advance an agenda that prevents veteran homelessness, accelerates rapid rehousing, and expands permanent supportive housing so fewer veterans become homeless.

★ WOMEN VETERANS

Gender-Specific Care: Expand access to gender-specific services at DoD, VA, and community providers.

Legislative Implementation: Ensure new laws aimed at modernizing and improving health outcomes for women veterans at VA — such as the Deborah Sampson Act and the MAMMO Act — are fully implemented.

Connection and Recognition of Service: Strengthen VA outreach to women veterans to improve engagement, increase response rates, and encourage full use of earned benefits.

Financial Wellness: Promote policies to assist with employment, financial obligations, food security, housing stability, and childcare.

★ TRANSITION SUPPORT

Transition Preparation Support: Promote policies to support warriors while they are still in the military and at or near their transition point to prepare them for the changes they will face when adjusting to civilian life.

Health Care: Support policies that help coordinate efforts across VA, DoD, and the community to ensure that Service members transition seamlessly to civilian life.

Benefits Access and Process Improvement: Support legislation and policies that strengthen the benefits process before, during, and after separation.

Community Integration and Well-Being: Champion grants and innovative initiatives that create and promote meaningful reintegration opportunities for transitioning Service members.

★ FORCE READINESS

Health Resources and Workforce Improvements: Ensure the Military Health System has sufficient funding and staffing and possesses appropriate tools to address critical shortage specialties.

Health Partnerships: Promote collaboration between the Defense Health Agency and the Veterans Health Administration to enable resource sharing and sustain provider readiness for treating critically ill and injured service members.

Medical Readiness: Pursue policies that will help sustain critical wartime medical skills and tasks for military health care providers.

Financial Readiness: Advocate for policies and programs that build, sustain, and support financial readiness across a Service member's career.

Holistic Force Resiliency: Support initiatives that enhance total force readiness by fostering healthy, sustainable habits — physical, mental, nutritional, sleep, and spiritual readiness — and preventing injuries.