



Southern Division

Legislative Bulletin

July 2021

In the TAL Legislative Agenda it states that causes of homelessness among Veterans can be grouped into three (3) categories: economic hardships, health issues and lack of affordable housing. Other challenges include “separation from traditional support (i.e. family and friends); stressful training and occupational demands, which can affect personality, self-esteem and the ability to communicate after being discharged; and non-transferability of military occupational specialties into the civilian workforce.” (TAL Legislative Agenda; Eliminate Veteran Homelessness; page 16)

It also states some **Key Points** worth mentioning:

- Twenty-one out of every 10,000 veterans were homeless in 2019.
- COVID-19 – related unemployment rates and evictions are a cause for alarm.
- Female veterans are the fastest-growing demographic among our homeless population.
- VA has helped house or prevent more than 800,000 veterans and their families from experiencing homelessness since 2010.

H.R. 1257 – Homeless Veterans Credit Act

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effect of financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability, and for other purposes.

Has passed the House.

H.R. 240 – Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Labor to prioritize the provision of services to homeless veterans with dependents in carrying out homeless veterans’ reintegration programs, and for other purposes.

Has passed the House.

H.R. 2190 – Helping Homeless Veterans Act of 2021

PROGRAMS ASSISTING HOMELESS VETERANS AND OTHER VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

- (a) HOMELESS VETERANS’ REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.
- (b) REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS WHO ARE TRANSITIONING FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.
- (c) TREATMENT FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.
- (d) HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.
- (e) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.
- (f) GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Still waiting to be voted on in the House. (from the Veterans’ Affairs Committee)

H.R. 2419 – Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans Act of 2021

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and extend Department of Veterans Affairs assistance for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

Still waiting to be voted on in the House. (from the Veterans’ Affairs Committee)

Year-end Reports and Award Submissions may be done...but our work isn't. Please pass this information on so that letters/emails may be written. H.R. 2190 and H.R. 2419 need to pass the House.

The Senate has not done comparable bills yet. They come from the Veterans' Affairs Committee. They need to have comparable documents passed in the House and the Senate for a Bill to go to the White House for signature and become a law.

So also write letters/emails to the Senators of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and urge them to get these done. The members on this committee are:

Majority Members (9)

Tester, Jon (MT), *Chairman*
Murray, Patty (WA)
Sanders, Bernard (VT)
Brown, Sherrod (OH)
Blumenthal, Richard (CT)
Hirono, Mazie K. (HI)
Manchin, Joe (WV)
Sinema, Kyrsten (AZ)
Hassan, Margaret Wood (NH)

Minority Members (9)

Moran, Jerry (KS), *Ranking Member*
Boozman, John (AR)
Cassidy, Bill (LA)
Rounds, Mike (SD)
Tillis, Thom (NC)
Sullivan, Dan (AK)
Blackburn, Marsha (TN)
Cramer, Kevin (ND)
Tuberville, Tommy (AL)

As ALA members we have assisted with programs for homeless veterans for years through our Units and at our VA facilities. Let's do that extra bit and see if we can help get some legislation passed that is much needed.

Thank you for all you do! And we aren't done yet!

As always, remember to take advantage of the free resources available at www.legion.org/legislative and join us on our ALA Legislative Facebook page for daily posts, videos, and our monthly Legislative Moments with special guest speakers.

*For God and Country,
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