

Legislative Update

Maj. Gen. April Vogel, USAF (Ret)
Vice President, Government Relations



Agenda

- Meet the Headquarters Team
- Why Advocacy?
- MOAA Legislative Highlights
- 119th Congress – Goals and Road Ahead
- National and Council/Chapter Collaboration

Meet the Headquarters Team



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Why Advocacy?

- Given the fierce competition for limited funding, strong advocacy on the Hill is essential to ensure that earned servicemember benefits are not compromised in the name of cost savings
- Most servicemembers and their families are not in positions to represent their own interests.
- National-State legislative efforts/building critical mass through advocacy.

MOAA Legislative Highlights

- Maintained pay raise comparability.
- Defeated “COLA Minus 1 Percent.”
- Blocked 5 consecutive TFL enrollment fee proposals.
- Halted medical billet cuts.
- Secured comprehensive privatized military housing reform.
- Repealed the SBP-DIC Offset (‘Widows Tax’).
- Secured major GI Bill upgrades to include transferability and improving benefits for those on Title 32 orders.
- Established comprehensive toxic exposure reform.
- Provided wounded warrior protections and caregiver enhancements.

118th Congress Goals

- Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits
 - Military Housing
 - Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees
 - Health Care and Benefits for Veterans
 - Service Families
 - Survivors
 - Guard and Reserves
-
- Scan the QR code below for more information on MOAA's Legislative Goals:



119th Congress – The Road Ahead

Congressional Schedule in Regular Order:

119 th Congress																							
Session 1 – 2025												Session 2 – 2026											
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<i>50% of Bill Introduction</i>																	<i>50% of Bill Enactment</i>						

- Appropriations/Budget
- NDAA
- Challenges Ahead

National and Council/Chapter Collaboration

Discussion Questions:

- What does your council/chapter do well?
- Where can you improve?

Council & Chapter Resources:

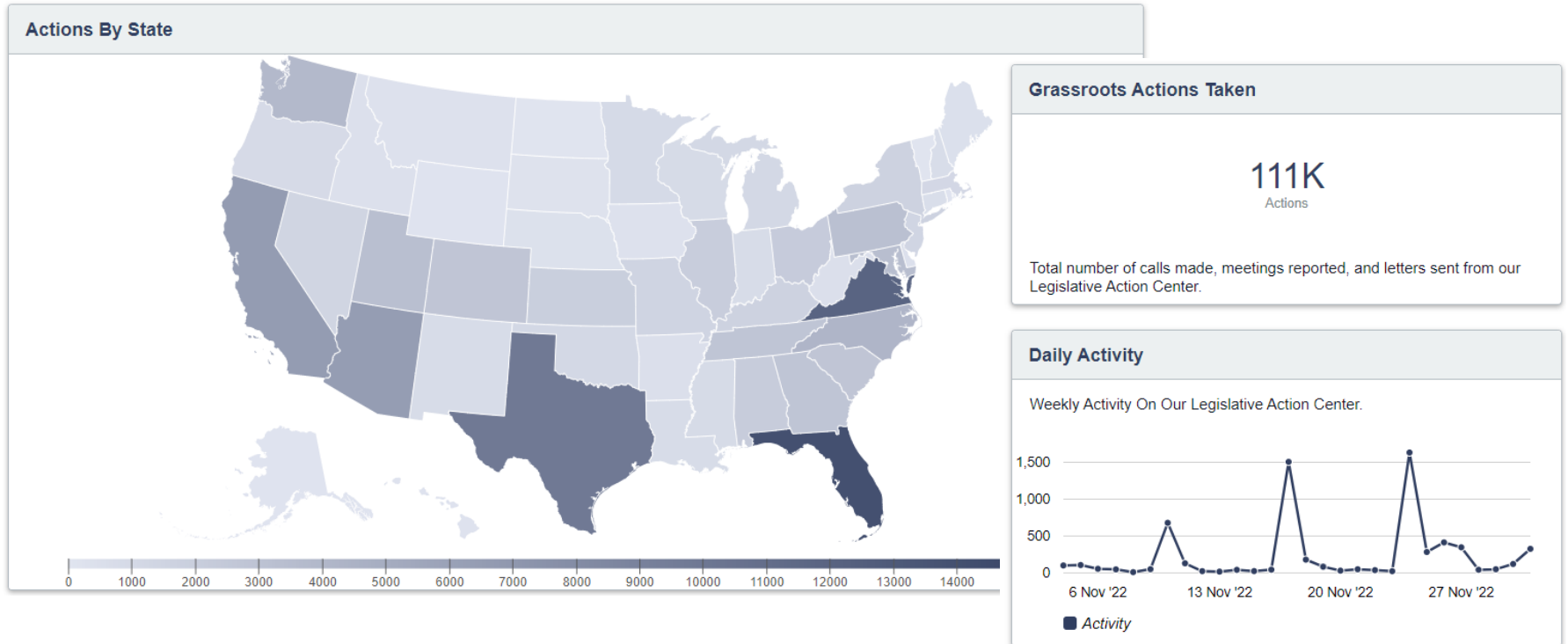
- State Report Card
- State Legislative Forum
- Legislative Leaders Page
- Legislative Action Center
- Military Officer Magazine
- The MOAA Newsletter
- Social Media
- Capitol Hill Toll-Free Hotline



State Legislative Forum

- Online Forum for council and chapter legislative leaders to share their experiences on issues at the state level.
- Points of Contact:
 - LTC Don Wolfinger, USA (Ret)
 - Greater St. Louis Chapter/ MO Council, Legislative Affairs
 - Email: Don17609@yahoo.com
 - Mobile: 636.484.0248
 - Lt. Col Shelly Kalkowski, USAF (Ret)
 - Chair – State Legislative Committee Colorado
 - Email: Shelly.Kalkowski@ccoc-moaa.org
 - Mobile: 970.337.1193
 - COL Harold Cooney, USA (Ret)
 - Past President, Pennsylvania Council
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 - Mobile: 610.442.5880

Legislative Leaders Page



This site is an enduring resource for Council and Chapter Leadership to provide necessary tools for your federal advocacy efforts. Scan the QR code below to access the webpage:



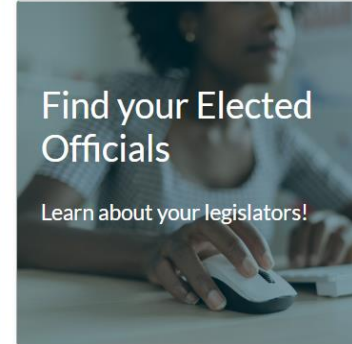
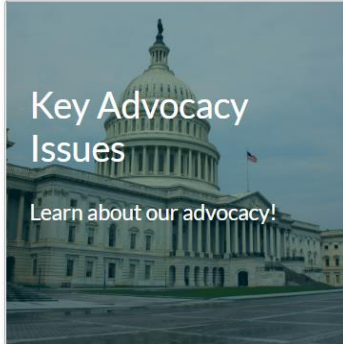
MOAA's Legislative Action Center



[Action Center Tutorial](#)

[Return to MOAA.org](#)

Hello, Allison! ▾



Active Legislative Campaigns

Help Support Military Family Access to Mental Health Care

Help MOAA build support for H.R. 4824, the Stop Copay Overpay Act, which would reduce TRICARE copays for mental health visits and address the financial barrier to accessing mental health services.

Write

Scan the QR code below to access the Legislative Action Center:





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Military Officers Association of America