



# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY REPORTS

*WEEK ENDING*  
FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024

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# **LEGISLATIVE DIVISION WEEKLY REPORT**

## National Legislative Division Weekly Report

### On Monday, June 24, 2024, Leg Div Staff:

- Had a constructive meeting with other VSO discussing VBA claims, appeals, and legislative issues.
- Checked in with the HVAC Majority to stay updated on legislative actions.

### On Tuesday, June 25, 2024, Leg Div Staff:

- Met with Rep. Deluzio's staff to discuss the Safe Gun Storage bill.
- Met with Rep. Vasquez's staff to strategize support for his bill H.R. 8514, the *Veteran Education Assistance Adjustment Act*, and to advocate for several bills that the Legion supports.
- Attended the Elizabeth Dole Act Press Event at the VFW headquarters.

### On Wednesday, June 26, 2024, Leg Div Staff:

- Attended the House Veteran Affairs, Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA) Subcommittee Hearing on "Examining Shortcomings with VA's National Work Queue Veterans Benefits Claims Management System."
- Had a firearm safety meeting with Everytown for Gun Safety.
- Hosted the Legislative Commission's Quarterly Meeting, where the Legislative Division presented updates on current key legislative activities.

### On Thursday, June 27, 2024, Leg Div Staff:

- Attended the House Veteran Affairs, Economic Opportunity Subcommittee Markup of pending legislation including several that the Legion supports.
- Attended the House Veteran Affairs, Economic Opportunity Subcommittee Hearing on "Exploring the Use of Data-Driven Methods and Community Collaboration to Reduce Veteran Homelessness."
- Met with Rep. Takano along with other VSOs to discuss the Elizabeth Dole Act.
- Attended the Department of Veteran Affairs 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the signing of the GI Bill, which served to honor and commemorate the significant impact of this landmark piece of legislation.
- Participated with VA&R on the House Veteran Affairs DAMA roundtable to discuss various claims related legislation.
- Worked with the National Security Division on a letter outlining the Legion's perspective on related appropriation legislation.

### On Friday, June 28, 2024, Leg Div Staff:

- Dialed into the Star Act Working group to strategize advocacy efforts in the Senate.
- Participated in an emerging therapies roundtable hosted by the For Country Caucus.

### Hearings next week:

- Currently no hearings or markups are scheduled for next week as of June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

HVAC hearings can be viewed at: [Calendar Home | House Committee on Veterans Affairs](#)

SVAC hearings can be viewed at: [Hearings - U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs](#)

## National Legislative Division Weekly Report

HASC hearings can be viewed at: [Hearings – House Armed Services Committee](#)

SASC hearings can be viewed at: [Hearings – U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services](#)

### **Summary of the week:**

This week, the Legislative Division Staff attended several press events, signing light on important legislation that we are currently advocating for in the case of the Elizabeth Dole Act and honoring legislation like the GI Bill that has had a profound impact on generations of veterans. The Leg. Division continues to work with partners to coordinate support on critical issues affecting many in the veteran community and the public, such as firearm safety. Next, they updated the Legion's Legislative Commission on important legislative and policy activities. Lastly, they continued to advocate for legislation the Legion supports, produce bill reviews, and draft letters for upcoming veteran and military legislative priorities.

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**The American Legion**  
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# **NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION WEEKLY REPORT**



**VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA  
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT**

Mario Marquez, Director

[MMarquez@legion.org](mailto:MMarquez@legion.org)

**June 22 – June 28, 2024**

**Meetings**

- NS Staff conducted a follow-up meeting with experts from the Niskanen Center to discuss border policy and the role of foreign policy in securing the southern land border.
- NS Staff attended a Department of Defense (DOD) IGA Webinar on Sexual Assault Prevention. The meeting discussed results from the most recent report on sexual assault in the military, which can be read [here](#).
- NS Staff attended a reception honoring the anniversary of the GI Bill.
- NS Staff attended the Department of Veterans Affairs Commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the GI Bill.
- NS Director met with HR to begin interviewing and hiring for a vacant National Security Policy Analyst position.
- NS Staff met to continue detailed planning for hosting over 30 distinguished and Commission guests for the national convention. Detailed logistical and administrative planning critical to executing a successful convention is ongoing.
- The NS Director attended a meet-and-greet hosted by the Executive Director to welcome Ms. Tahina Montoya, the new Senior Advisor/Director of Veterans Engagement, Office of Public Engagement, from the White House.
- NS Director joined the Executive Director for a Veteran breakfast with Governor Youngkin in Richmond, VA.
- NS Staff attended a meeting with Colonel Masaka, the Defense Attache at the Embassy of Japan, to discuss a range of veterans and military affairs.
- NS Staff attended a coordination call with various VSOs to discuss the Richard Star Act.

- NS Director conducted an introductory call with Sergeant Major Barrett, 17<sup>th</sup> SgtMaj of the Marine Corps.
- NS Director attended a coordination call with the Atlantic Council regarding an upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NATO Summit event.
- NS Staff attended a “With Honor” Afghan Adjustment Act update/coordination call.

### **Policy**

- NS Staff provided statements of support for three house appropriations bills: the Defense Appropriations Act, the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, and the Homeland Security Appropriations Act.
- NS Staff is assessing the best way to consolidate various resolutions on border security to streamline and modernize the Legion’s policy regarding transnational criminal organizations and their impact on America.
- NS Staff began researching the cost of malnutrition in the military for DOD and the Defense Health Agency (DHA).
- NS Staff continued working with wounded warriors to research and report on the Feres Doctrine. The lack of clarity surrounding “incident to service” was the investigation's root.
- NS Staff reviewed ongoing regional instability in Western Africa. NS Staff will provide an outlook on the potential ramifications of this instability on the United States and allies in the region.

### **Programs**

- NS Staff compiled biographies for the 2024 American Legion Spirit of Service Award, which will be incorporated during the 2024 National Convention ceremony.

#### The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment

- Items requested: Ammo – 4960; Rifles – 24; Clips – 0; Static Displays – 1
- Requests submitted by: Posts –8; Departments – 7

### **POW/MIA**

DPAA has identified/repatriated [99](#) service members this year.

#### **June 26, 2024**

- Airman Accounted for from WWII (Banta, D.)
- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Zarifian, J.)

- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Mahoney, J.)
- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Cocco, J.)

#### **June 25, 2024**

- Soldier Accounted for from Korean War (Hall, R.)
- Airman Accounted from Vietnam War (Price, D.)
- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Brown, C.)

#### **June 24, 2024**

- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Murphy, J.)

#### **Be The One (BTO)**

- NS Staff attended a DOD update on Sexual Assault. These updates are critical for informing the NS Staff on efforts which can better a veteran or service member's life and address potential issues surrounding sexual assault related trauma.

#### **Focus Topic: The Significance of Protests in Kenya**

##### **Background:**

Since decolonization in 1963, Kenya has maintained diplomatic ties with the United States. Although relations were strained by the ruling party's repressive behavior, attempts to democratize in the late 1990s and 2000s allowed U.S.-Kenya engagement to expand. The 2019 Bilateral Strategic Dialogue (BSD) solidified the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Kenya, emphasizing mutual interests in economic prosperity, defense, democracy, regional stability, and public health. Already, this partnership is proving to be fruitful. The following are key developments:

- Kenya is one of the U.S.'s top trading partners in Africa and is negotiating a new trade deal.
- The U.S. and Kenya signed a 5-year defense cooperation deal, targeting al-Shabaab and other Al-Qaeda affiliates.
- Kenya received about \$680 million in foreign assistance in 2023, largely to help curb food insecurity and solidify the medical supply chain.

##### **Current Challenges:**

President William Ruto was elected in 2022 on a "man of the people" platform, often referring to his pastoral upbringing. But his government's ever-increasing taxes are threatening his popularity. Despite deadly protests last year that came after new taxes were introduced as the cost of living was on the rise, this year President Ruto recently supported a plan to increase taxes through 2027. This includes taxes for car owners, a 16% sales tax on bread, 25% duties on cooking oil, and increased prices for baby diapers and other sanitary products.



Members of Parliament (MPs) approved these taxes as law this week, igniting a new round of protests that quickly devolved into violence. According to the Human Rights Commission, 23 people were killed and 300 were injured in the uproar where Kenyan police forces fired live ammunition into the crowds. The United Nations (UN) has called on Kenyan police to act with increased restraint, and the African Union has expressed deep concern about the events.

On June 25, 2024, President Joe Biden also condemned the violence in Kenya. This castigation comes only a month after President Ruto visited President Biden in Washington, D.C. and agreed on a joint mission to strengthen democracy and stabilize Sub-Saharan Africa. President Biden also designated Kenya as its first major non-NATO ally in the region.

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, President Ruto declined to sign the tax bill into law and sent it back to parliament for reform in an act of self-preservation. Ruto said, “It is necessary for us to have a conversation as a nation” and that he was ready to concede to “ongoing dissatisfaction.” There is still skepticism about the bill’s future and President Ruto’s policies among Kenyans.

### **Looking Ahead:**

If he wishes to maintain his domestic legitimacy, Ruto will likely have to reject the bill outright, rather than returning the bill for amendment. But even this move may be seen as too little, too late to many Kenyans who continued to protest his government on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. It appears that the tax bill was merely a catalyst for protests, while a more deeply seeded mistrust in Ruto and his government has given them stamina. Kenyan youth are now calling for President Ruto to step down.

If Ruto loses legitimacy and is ousted from the presidency, the geopolitical implications could be disastrous. While democratic backsliding has plagued Western and Sub-Saharan Africa for a decade, Kenya has been one of the few African nations to progress towards a more fair and open society. If Ruto is ousted without proper elections, or remains in power without popular consent, yet another democracy in Africa will fall and regional instability will escalate.

Moreover, the U.S. and other Western powers will lose a crucial ally in a region where China and Russia are increasingly popular. As stated previously, Kenya is a key trade partner for the U.S. and a stronghold against terrorist forces, who are increasingly backed by Russian mercenaries. Backsliding in Kenya would not just pose a risk an ideational risk to U.S. influence, but could generate tangible, negative ramifications for American security and financial prosperity.



# **VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION WEEKLY REPORT**

# VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Week Ending — 06/28/2024

### *Health Policy Team Operations*

#### **Meetings:**

- June 23 – 27: Health Policy Analyst Matthew Cardenas and Andrew Petrie conducted a System Worth Saving (SWS) site visit to the VA New Mexico Healthcare System.
- June 24: Health Policy Team (HPT) met with the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA) to discuss research regarding Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and scope of practice in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- June 25: HPT attended the VA press conference on the data breach of VA partner “Change Healthcare” in February. VA claims there have been no adverse patient effects. There has been some additional backlog in claims processes.
- June 26: HPT attended the Department of Defense (DoD) Webinar on Sexual Assault Prevention, where DoD and VA representatives provided an overview of the efforts and changes related to preventing sexual assault and harassment, as well as providing support for survivors. Prevention efforts are prioritized and are well-resourced; independent reports have demonstrated improvements, but work must be continued to sustain progress and disseminate resources.
- June 27: HPT met with Maxim Healthcare services. This organization offers compassionate care in the home to individuals with chronic and acute illnesses and disabilities. The meeting detailed how these service offerings could potentially enhance the quality of life within the veteran community.
- June 28: HPT met with representatives from SyncMD. The meeting centered around how this security innovation can help streamline the veteran claims process and improve access to healthcare.
- June 28: HPT and Legislation Team participated in a roundtable discussion with the Congressional for Country Caucus on Emerging Therapies.

## ***Claims & Appeals Team Operations***

### **Accreditations**

- Applications received from TAL Departments 7
- Certifications submitted by TAL Washington Office 7
- Certifications approved by VA's Office of General Counsel 12

### **The American Legion Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) Unit**

- AMA appeals pending (125+ days) 0
- Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) prepared 257
- Memos generated 7
- Phone inquiries 176
- Internal quality reviews 4
- Individual training 1 hour
- Team training 1 hour
- Hearings 1
- Board dispositions 85
  - o Appeals granted 37 (43.5%)
  - o Remanded 31 (36.5%)
  - o Denied 14 (16.5%)
  - o Other 3 (3.5%)
- Total Retroactive awards won for veterans \$995,457

### **National Veterans Service Office**

- Phone Calls 88
- Emails 34
- Referrals 0
- Discharge Upgrades 0
- Written Correspondence 3
- Claims Submitted 27
- Evidence Submitted 0
- POA Submitted 0
- Training Hours 0

### **Pension & Debt Management**

- New Claims 15
- Supporting Submissions 6
- Sensitive Claims 2
- Rating Reviews/Audits 82
- Contacts 135
- Debt Notices Received 171
- Insurance Questions 5
- Waivers Granted 2
- Pension Notification Letters Processed 30
- Total debt waiver granted \$4,153

## ***Benefits Policy Team Operations***

### **Meetings:**

- June 21: Benefits Policy Team (BPT) participated a meeting with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) regarding Vietnam-era veterans' exposure to burn pits.
- June 26: BPT monitored the House Veterans Affairs Committee's (HVAC) Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA) Subcommittee hearing on the National Work Queue (NWQ).
- June 26: DDBC met with GAO staff regarding VA accreditation of VSOs, attorneys, and agents.
- June 27: BPT participated VA PACT Act Quarterly Briefing hosted by VBA.
- June 27: DDBC joined Executive Director and leaders from other Divisions to participate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of G.I. Bill signing hosted by the Department of Veterans Affairs at the National Press Club.
- June 27: DDBC and legislative associate attended a roundtable discussion on VA notification letter on Capitol Hill hosted by House HVAC DAMA Subcommittee.

### **Chanin Nuntavong**

Acting Director

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

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End of VA&R weekly update – 06/28/2024



**VETERANS  
EMPLOYMENT &  
EDUCATION  
WEEKLY REPORT**

# The Weekly Report

## National Veterans Employment & Education Commission



### *Announcement*



Today, the No.1 issue facing the veteran community is suicide, according to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. It is estimated that between 17 and 22 veterans or servicemembers take their lives each day; that’s more than 6,000 annually. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults. As the Global War on Terrorism continues, there will be more veterans facing mental-health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Be the One is a program that aims to destigmatize asking for mental health support, providing peer-to-peer support and resources, and educating everyone on how they can Be the One.

#### **24/7 Confidential crisis support**

#### **for veterans and their loved ones**

You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

[Dial 988 then Press 1](#)

[Chat Online](#) [Text 838255](#)

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## Economy

### The U.S. Economy Reaches Superstar Status

By Rogé Karma, The Atlantic

Four years ago, the pandemic brought the world economy to a temporary halt. Since then, the United States has surged ahead, outpacing other nations, and shattering its own economic records. With a soaring growth rate, historic lows in unemployment, surging household wealth, and rapidly rising wages, particularly for the working class, America stands strong by almost any measure of economic health.

Despite these impressive indicators, the American public remains unconvinced—a paradox that many analysts, me included, have recently attempted to unravel. Rather than assessing public sentiment, an objective evaluation of economic performance yields a starkly different conclusion.

In the realm of economic achievements, America stands in formidable shape, defying any doubts cast by popular perception.

Read more: [The U.S. Economy Reaches Superstar Status](#)

## Education

### Division Staff/Intern Activities:

- **June 24th Meeting with Executive Director, Chanin Nuntavong:**  
On Monday, June 24th, Interns had the opportunity to meet with Chanin Nuntavong, the Executive Director at The American Legion National Headquarters. During this meeting, interns had the chance to learn about Mr. Nuntavong's career and share their experiences at The American Legion thus far.
- **June 25th Meeting with National Security Division Director, Mario A. Marquez:** On Tuesday, June 25th, Nick met with Mr. Marquez, the Director of National Security at The American Legion. This meeting was a great opportunity to learn about The American Legion National Security Division and Mr. Marquez's career in the Marine Corps.



**New Projects:** This week, Interns started two new projects:

**1. Veterans' Education and Training Programs Evaluation:**

- Interns will be looking into veterans' education and training programs such as the GI Bill, VET-TEC, and SkillBridge, and evaluating their effectiveness.
- Interns will begin working on a white paper dealing with a number of potential issues that these programs have.

**2. Veterans Education, Training, and Credentialing Binder:**

- Interns will create a binder comprising all veterans' education, training, and credentialing benefits/programs.
- This resource will make it easier for American Legion Staff to connect veterans with education programs, as well as to create continuity within the Division.

**Progress:** This week, Interns focused on gathering sources (GAO Reports, Testimony, etc.) for both projects.

- On Thursday, June 27, Division staff and interns attended the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits Administration's celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Signing of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944. The American Legion played a vital role in the creation of this landmark piece of legislation and continues to advocate for improving veteran education benefits. At this event, staff and interns heard remarks from VA officials, other VSO staff, and several veterans who have been positively impacted by the GI Bill.

**Speakers included:**

- Pamela Johnson: Chief Management Officer, Veterans Benefits Administration
  - Chaplain Kimberly Willis: Executive Director, VA National Chaplain Service
  - Chanin Nuntavong: Executive Director of Government Affairs, The American Legion
  - Kimberly Jackson: Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Brian Jenkins: Executive Director, Armed Services Arts Partnership
  - Jared Lyon: National President & CEO, Student Veterans of America
  - Joshua Jacobs: Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefit Administration
- Division Staff met with students participating in The American Legion's Boys State program to speak on the priorities and initiatives of the Veterans Employment and Education Division. During the discussion, students had the opportunity to engage with Staff and interns to develop a greater understanding of the issues facing veterans and their families.
  - Division Staff attended the House Veterans Affairs Committee Majority Staff Check-in Meeting to discuss pending legislation and upcoming hearings. The primary focus of this discussion was the Elizabeth Dole Act. More details will be forthcoming regarding this legislation.

## Employment & Transition

- Division Staff continues to create avenues for our Legionnaires to get involved in VE&E Division activities. With just a click of a button, you can access information on Hiring Our Heroes and Yellow Ribbon events. Additionally, Hiring Our Heroes has a link for any employers who would like to participate in the Career Fair in New Orleans. Please share this link with any companies that are currently hiring in New Orleans. Links are below:

[American Legion Career Exploration and Hiring Fair: New Orleans](#)

 [Yellow Ribbon Event.xlsx](#)

 [Hiring Our Heroes Events .xlsx](#)

### **Division Staff/Intern Activities:**

- Division Staff and interns had the opportunity to search for resources for two incarcerated veterans. One of the veterans needs housing, while the other seeks job opportunities to be eligible for parole. Through working to help incarcerated veterans, interns have learned to extend empathy to people who society often deems undeserving of grace and compassion. Crime is often viewed as black-and-white, with no grey area, but it is usually more multi-faceted. Lack of financial stability, lack of support, and mental health problems can intersect with crime, making some veterans more vulnerable to entering the Criminal Justice System. Addressing homelessness and employment is essential to combating crime. Interns have noted that they find it extremely special and heartening that the Legion is willing to advocate on behalf of all veterans, including those who are incarcerated.
- Division Staff has been compiling our previous research on local veteran homeless shelters and resources into a binder. Having these resources easily accessible will offer aid to struggling veterans who call the Legion in search of support. These organizations extend beyond local posts to create an even larger support network for veterans experiencing financial hardship.
- Division Staff and interns have worked on coordinating visits between the Legion and veteran homeless centers in New Orleans, where the Legion is hosting its 105th National Convention. The division is also donating supplies to these shelters based on the shelter's needs.
- Division Staff met with Centene to discuss employment opportunities for transitioning service members, veterans, and spouses. Centene provides access to high-quality

healthcare, innovative programs and health solutions that help families and individuals get well, stay well and be well. Employer partnerships are crucial to seeing that the military-connected community has access to all available opportunities. Staff consistently seeks out these partnerships to ensure that these opportunities remain available.

## Small Business

### Division Staff/Intern Activities:

- Division Staff completed the Small Business portfolio training guide, which comprises all the small business programs available to current service members, veterans, spouses, and disabled veterans. This portfolio includes all loans offered by the Small Business Administration for veterans and every form of testimony and resolution The American Legion has produced in the effort to make the lives of our service members, veterans, and their families as prosperous as possible. This comprehensive training guide allows us to have all the information involving veteran-owned small businesses in one place, enabling us to hit the ground running when it comes time to advocate for further legislation that will better aid our service members.
- Division Staff is creating an Excel sheet that will contain all the events hosted by the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. The sheet will be organized by month and will include information on which unit will be hosting each event and whether it is a virtual or in-person event. If you or anyone you know is interested in any of the upcoming events, the sheet will also have the link to register for that event various topics pertaining to veteran-owned small businesses, and to develop policy initiatives based on the information collected.

### Objectives:

- **Information Compilation:** To gather and organize information about veteran-owned small business programs into a user-friendly binder.
- **Resolution Research:** To identify and analyze the American Legion's past resolutions related to veteran small business ownership.
- **Impact Analysis:** To assess the evolution of business startup costs and regulatory requirements impacting veteran entrepreneurs.

### Key Activities:

1. **Program Research and Compilation:**
  - **Boots to Business:** A program providing veterans with training and resources to start and grow their businesses.
  - **Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program:** Offers specialized training and support for women veterans pursuing entrepreneurial endeavors.

- **Service-Disabled Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program:** Supports veterans with service-related disabilities in their entrepreneurial pursuits.
- **Small Business Binder:** Zachary and Mo have been compiling all relevant information into a binder, including program details, eligibility criteria,

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## Homelessness and Housing

The Division is in high gear preparing for the National Convention, with a focus on our homeless portfolio. We have arranged visits to three Veterans Shelters in New Orleans on Tuesday, August 27, 2024. We will be collecting donations to take to these shelters. Stand by for the link to sign up if you are interested in participating, so we can arrange the necessary transportation.

- If you want to donate, please send all donations to the DC office no later than Monday, July 22, 2024. The address is 1608 K Street N.W. Washington, DC 20006.
- Your support is greatly appreciated as we strive to assist veterans in need.

### **Division Staff/Intern Activities:**

- Division Staff has been compiling previous research on local veteran homeless shelters and resources into a binder. Having these resources easily accessible will offer aid to struggling veterans who call the Legion in search of support. These organizations extend beyond local posts to create an even larger support network for veterans experiencing financial hardship.
- Division Staff and interns worked on coordinating visits between the Legion and veteran homeless centers in New Orleans, where the Legion is hosting its 105th National Convention. The division is also donating supplies to these shelters based on the shelter's needs.
- On June 27, 2024, Division Staff and interns attended a House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing. While at the hearing, members investigated the VA's response to tracking homelessness and their budget of 3.2 billion dollars. Issues that arose included the lack of accurate reporting of veteran homelessness in both rural and urban areas and the failure to address the root causes of homelessness, often linked to mental health, childhood trauma, and dignity issues.

Proposed solutions consisted of more transparent and centralized data gathering and more individualized care addressing the root cause of an individual's experience with

homelessness, utilizing the By-Name List. These solutions emphasized the importance of addressing underlying issues beyond financial instability.

The hearing was notably impactful due to Congressman Eli Crane's remarks, where he expressed that the root cause of his issues upon returning from five tours as a Navy SEAL was related to problems with his soul and mental health, not his finances. Congressman Crane's testimony was particularly meaningful given his representation of the state of Arizona, where one of the Division interns calls her home State.



- Division Staff created an Excel spreadsheet with state-specific resources.

## Key Features:

### State-Specific Resources:

- **Easy Navigation:** The spreadsheet features an interactive map of the United States, allowing users to simply click on their state to access relevant resources.
- **Comprehensive Listings:** Each state-specific link provides detailed information on various resources, including housing, employment, healthcare, education, and more.

### Veteran-Centric Support:

- **User-Friendly Interface:** The spreadsheet is designed to be intuitive and easy to navigate, ensuring that veterans can quickly find the help they need.
- **Wide Range of Resources:** From emergency housing and job training programs to mental health services and educational opportunities, the spreadsheet covers a broad spectrum of support services.

## **Proud Achievement:**

The Division staff takes great pride in this accomplishment, recognizing the significant impact it can have on the veteran community. This tool reflects the staff's dedication to providing accessible and valuable resources to those who have served our country.

## **Future Impact:**

By making this link widely available, the Division hopes to empower veterans to easily find and utilize the resources available to them. This tool is expected to greatly enhance the ability of veterans to secure the support they need, contributing to their overall well-being and success in civilian life.

## **Conclusion:**

The completion of the Excel spreadsheet with state-specific resource links represents a significant milestone for the Division staff. They are confident that this tool will be immensely beneficial to veterans, helping them navigate the array of resources available across the country.

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