



## **AMVETS 2025 Top Bills: Talking Points**

### **Re-authorize the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program**

AMVETS has witnessed firsthand the positive impact that alternative approaches can have on veterans' mental health and suicide prevention. The Staff Sergeant Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program has provided critical support to thousands of veterans nationwide, equipping them with tools to build meaningful, fulfilling lives. This program has proven to be a life-saving initiative from the VA, and AMVETS urges the department to continue backing these nonprofit efforts while incorporating their valuable insights into the VA's broader care models.

AMVETS strongly supports the reauthorization of this critical grant program. We also urge the removal of funding caps to ensure that proven, life-saving programs can expand their reach and serve even more veterans nationwide. These grantees are saving lives, and they need the resources to continue their essential work.

*We ask your office to support S.793 & House Discussion Draft, No Wrong Door for Veterans Act.*

### **Pass the Ensuring Justice for Camp Lejeune Victims Act**

Victims of contaminated water at Camp Lejeune continue facing legal obstacles that delay justice and compensation. The original Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA) was intended to provide full and swift relief, yet technical ambiguities have led to unnecessary challenges in the courts.

AMVETS fully stands behind efforts to pass the Ensuring Justice for Camp Lejeune Victims Act (EJCLVA) to clarify legislative intent and remove barriers to justice for those affected.

Key provisions of this proposal include:

- Allowing cases to be heard in any district court within the 4th Circuit to ensure greater access to legal recourse.
- Explicitly providing the right to jury trials for victims seeking justice.



- Clarifying that victims must only establish general causation, including for latent or potential harm, to qualify for compensation.
- Capping attorney fees at 20% for settlements and 25% for trial verdicts to protect victims from excessive legal costs.

By passing this legislation, Congress will uphold its commitment to those harmed by the Camp Lejeune water contamination, ensuring they receive the fair and timely justice they deserve.

*We ask your office to pass the Ensuring Justice for Camp Lejeune Victims Act. This legislation is led by Senator Thom Tillis in the Senate and Representative Greg Murphy in the House.*

## **Support the Caring for Survivors Act**

For far too long, the surviving spouses of our nation's heroes have endured insufficient financial support through Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). This essential benefit, designed to offer stability to military families, falls unacceptably behind the support provided by other federal survivor programs.

Key provisions of the Caring for Survivors Act include:

- Increasing DIC to 55% of a 100% disabled veteran's compensation, aligning it with other federal survivor benefits.
- Expanding eligibility to ensure that surviving spouses of service members and veterans who pass away due to military service receive appropriate compensation.
- Addressing the historical disparity between DIC recipients—who currently receive only 43% of a disabled veteran's compensation—and the 55% granted to surviving spouses of federal employees.

DIC is not just a benefit; it is a lifeline for military families. Currently, over 501,000 surviving spouses rely on this support. By passing this legislation, Congress will fulfill the nation's promise to care for those left behind, ensuring that surviving spouses of America's fallen heroes receive the dignity and financial security they deserve.

*We ask your office to support the Caring for Survivors Act of 2025 (S. 611 & H.R. 680) to modernize DIC and ensure it provides fair and sufficient support to military families.*