

CWOA Legislative Update
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First, our CWOA is made up of approximately three thousand members, Active Duty, Reserve and Retired. With that said, the CWOA advocates for all Coast Guard members/family members and their earned benefits.

Currently, our most pressing legislative concern:

H.R. 9237, the Take Care of America's Veterans Act, is a 554-page package introduced in June 2026 by Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL). The bill combines more than 60 veterans-related measures affecting VA healthcare, benefits and funding.

Key Provisions:

- Major Richard Star Act: Allows eligible combat-injured veterans to receive both military retirement pay and VA disability compensation.
- Love Lives On Act: Protects survivor benefits for military spouses who remarry.
- Mental Health: Expands suicide-prevention grants and access to residential treatment programs.
- Justice for ALS Veterans Act: Strengthens survivor benefits for spouses of veterans who die from ALS.

Controversial Offsets: The package would reduce future disability compensation for veterans, including changes affecting tinnitus and sleep apnea, while also increasing certain VA home-loan and assumption fees.

Current Status: Strong opposition from major veterans organizations including the VFW and DAV, along with our CWOA. This prompted House leadership to cancel the planned floor debate and vote. Lawmakers are considering removing the controversial offsets or identifying alternative funding before bringing a revised bill to the House floor.