



United Veterans Committee of Colorado

2011 Federal Goals

The following document contains the 2011 UVC Federal Legislative Goals. The numbering does not reflect a priority order.

Federal Legislative Goals:

1. Support continued funding for the construction of a new "stand alone" Denver Veterans Administration Medical Center at Fitzsimons, including a comprehensive Spinal Cord Injury Center, consistent with the support of Colorado's congressional delegation and veteran leaders.
2. Support mandatory funding to enable the provision of a full range of medical and health care services in a timely manner for veterans in Colorado, and the full funding of the VA health care system.
3. Support efforts to assure that "lifetime medical care" is provided to eligible veterans and retirees in military hospitals or VA facilities.
4. Support efforts to authorize and fund the construction of a National Veterans Cemetery in El Paso County.
5. Support legislation to eliminate the "disabled veterans tax" (concurrent receipt).
6. Support legislation to repeal the requirement to deduct VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).
7. Support an amendment to the U. S. Constitution to protect the American flag.
8. Support legislation for Federal Employees' Health Benefits Program options for retired military personnel.
9. Support all necessary funding, adequate personnel resources, and any additional administrative measures needed by the VA to reduce the current excessive backlog of veterans awaiting decisions on claims for health care, compensation, and other benefits for which they are entitled.
10. Support legislation that allows federal and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums with pretax income and allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.
11. Support legislation that would repeal Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions for government and military retirees.
12. Support legislation that requires certain bonuses be paid to a member of the armed forces who is retired or separated due to a combat-related injury that they would otherwise be entitled.
13. Support efforts to maintain veterans' health benefits, such as provided by the Veterans Administration, separate and distinct from any health benefits to be provided under a National Health Care Plan, and exempt from any penalties or taxes that may be established under such a national plan.
14. Support legislation that provides for timely, less burdensome procedures for members of the military who are deployed overseas to vote and incorporates technological advances that facilitate overseas voting.
15. Support acquisition of land for expansion of Fort Logan Cemetery.
16. Support increase in burial allowance from current \$300 (same amount since 1972) to more adequately reflect current burial expenses.
17. Support legislation to establish eligibility for veterans benefits to individuals who served in combat situations in the United States Merchant Marines.
18. Support legislation that allows more flexibility in caring for Veterans with service-connected disabilities at state veterans homes and more flexibility in the receipt of payment for such services from payment sources related to the Medicaid and Medicare programs.
19. Support immediate contact of Colorado delegation to ensure their support in congress to finalize "Doctor Fix" portion of Public Law 111-192 (111th congress), to prevent loss of more Medicare-Tricare-Medicaid Health Care Providers leaving veteran families and others with only emergency room care.

George Thomas
President
303.503.7393
georget133@aol.com

Jay Bobick
Legislative Committee Chair
303.598.8569
j.bobick@comcast.net

Nate Gorman
Legislative Liaison
303.221.2231
n_gorman@yahoo.com