



United Veterans Committee of Colorado

2010 Federal Goals and Priorities

The following document contains the 2010 UVC Federal Legislative Goals and non-legislative Organizational Priorities. The numbering does not reflect a priority order.

Federal Legislative Goals:

1. Support 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. Encourage each Colorado U.S. Senator and Representative to establish and regularly consult with a military/veterans affairs committee.
6. Support legislation to eliminate the “disabled veterans tax” (concurrent receipt).
7. Support legislation to repeal the requirement to deduct VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) when the veteran’s death is service-connected and the survivor is qualified to receive both.
8. Support an amendment to the U. S. Constitution to protect the American flag.
9. Support legislation for Federal Employees’ Health Benefits Program options for retired military personnel.
10. 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.
11. Support legislation that allows federal and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums with pretax income and allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.
12. Support legislation that would repeal Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions for government and military retirees.
13. 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.
14. Support provision of certain medical services from approved VA providers to veterans residing in rural areas of Colorado.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. Support acquisition of land for expansion of Fort Logan Cemetery.
18. Support legislation that designates POW/MIA as an official casualty status and category classification for military personnel.
19. Support increase in burial allowance from current \$300 to \$500 total benefit.
20. Support the retention, funding and maintenance of the Selective Service System.
21. Support legislation to establish eligibility for veterans benefits to individuals who served in combat situations in the United States Merchant Marines.

Federal Organizational Priorities

1. Support the continued expansion of Community Based Outreach Clinics by VISN 19 to provide medical services to veterans living in rural areas of Colorado.
2. Support the establishment of a Congressional Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs.
3. Support full funding for commissaries.

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