

MOAA Ohio Council of Chapters Legislative Update – OCT 2021

MOAA National ‘Advocacy in Action’ Campaign

Highlights from MOAA’s Advocacy in Action Page (<https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action/>):

- In all, MOAA members contacted all 535 congressional offices, sent over 20,000 messages to the Hill, and conducted 350 meetings in various formats.
- **Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform:** MOAA has communicated the long-term effects of Agent Orange on our Vietnam veterans, as well as the service-connected illnesses from the Gulf War and Iraq and Afghanistan. What started as four bills became the catalyst for overarching (omnibus) legislation offered by the House and Senate – together, this topic has amassed 200 co-sponsors, including key legislators from both chambers.
- **TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Parity:** MOAA communicated that children from military families transitioning to adulthood lack the same health care protections as civilian families who have commercial plans. These concerns were made worse during the pandemic — and also complicated by the prospects of serious TRICARE Young Adult premium increases next year. Unfortunately, MOAA did not compel inclusion in the House version of the NDAA, nor through the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC). However, MOAA will be working during the second session of Congress coming up, so the bills and support carry forward in 2022.
- **Basic Needs Allowance:** Support for improving the lives of our junior servicemembers and their families seemed to resonate with many on the Hill and MOAA is confident there will be some level of support in the FY 2022 NDAA.

Ohio State Issues

Working with Jim Rickel of the Department of Defense State Liaison Office, the following bills were a top priority in 2021. There has been a lot of success with only [HB 29](#) still not passed:

- [OH HB 92](#) – Child Abuse Reporting, currently in Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee
 - Effective Date: September 29, 2021
- [OH HB 244](#) – Virtual and Advance Enrollment for our military school aged children, currently passed both relevant House and Senate Committees
 - Effective Date: October 13, 2021
- [OH HB 252](#) – Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, currently passed both relevant House and Senate Committees
 - Effective Date: September 30, 2021
- [SB 3](#) – Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact, certain provisions effective 2023.
 - Effective Date September 30, 2021,
 - Certain provisions effective January 1, 2023
- [HB 29](#) - to allow a person who was discharged from the United States Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to obtain an Ohio veterans identification card, to allow intercollegiate athletes to earn compensation from their name, image, or likeness, to legalize and regulate sports gaming in this state, to levy a tax on businesses that provide sports gaming, and to make other changes to the Gambling Law.
 - Currently in committee negotiations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan Beamer

MOAA OCC Legislative Director