

March 2022 OCC Legislative Affairs Update

The following is an extract from the January 04, 2022 “MOAA Take Action” weblink. As MOAA members, our efforts are critical to the success of protecting and expanding the earned pay and benefits for the uniformed services and veteran communities.

MOAA has made changes at the **Legislative Action Center**, <https://moaa.quorum.us/> and on individual “Take Action” messages. The new system is designed to make it easier to reach out to your lawmakers on identified issues, as well as track what MOAA is engaging on in the halls of Congress.

You may ask “what has happened to the old Take Action Items?” MOAA imported the old items into the new system. All of MOAA’s ongoing legislative engagement efforts were moved except for those that had expired as part of the regular legislative session, or for other reasons were deleted. Look for an expanded list of engagement opportunities as more bills are proposed in the coming year. Clicking on any of the old links should take you to the new Legislative Action Center website where you will be able to find an updated way to engage your lawmakers.

The changeover requires all users to enter essential details such as *name, address, email address, current military status, cell phone number, branch of service, component, grade level and MOAA chapter* the first time they enter the portal. First-time users can sign in at this link <https://moaa.quorum.us/sign-in/>. You will need to provide your information again if you sign in from another browser or device.

The cell phone link allows MOAA to provide members with up-to-date information on issues of interest, as well as inform them of new or urgent legislative action items via text message. It is a way of mobilizing its 350,000-plus members. Signing up using your phone number is optional, and you can opt out of these messages at any time.

The new program asks members to provide a mailing address that matches them as close as possible to the right lawmaker. This in turn allows you to contact your legislators on issues of critical importance. If after signing in individuals are having problems, MOAA asks that you email legis@moaa.org for assistance.

If you need to update your sign-in information a greeting should appear in the top right corner of the homepage. Hover over the greeting or click on the arrow next to it and select the “Update Information” option.

Anyone can sign-up and use MOAA’s Legislative Action Center. MOAA advocates for the entire uniformed services and veteran communities. You can read more about MOAA’s key advocacy issues at <https://moaa.quorum.us/issueareas/>.

The new system not only offers an easier-to-navigate, user-friendly setup for our members and supporters, it also offers MOAA staff members multiple ways to track these advocacy actions, and to log interactions with staffers, representatives, and others. The change will mean an overall improvement in MOAA's ability to represent the needs of its members on Capitol Hill.

If you had an interaction with your representative on a topic of interest to MOAA and you wish to pass on that information, click the "Log an Interaction link", <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/36862> at the Legislative Action Center and follow the prompts. These meetings not only show lawmakers how engaged MOAA's members are on key issues, but they can be taken together as a show of strength for the organization on a national level.

If you want to find what bills MOAA supports in the current session of Congress, click on the "MOAA Supported Legislation" button, <https://moaa.quorum.us/bills> on the homepage of the Legislative Action Center. The organization's endorsement process is deliberative. MOAA will not support or oppose any legislation without a thorough review of its potential effects, positive or negative.

If you have more questions about the Legislative Action Center, visit [MOAA.org/contact](https://moaa.org/contact) for full details on the best way to get in touch. If you have a question about the bills themselves, or about MOAA's advocacy work, email legis@moaa.org.

Remember, MOAA is fighting for all of us. It is or should be our responsibility to support MOAA by getting involved and make sure our interests are addressed.

LTC John Anderson, OCC Legislative Affairs Representative