

# Veteran Senate Legislation

## 30 March 08

Of the 2786 Senate bills introduced in the 110th Congress to date, following are those of interest to the non-active duty veteran community. By clicking on the bill number you can access the actual legislative language of the bill and see if your representative has signed on as a cosponsor. Support of these bills by other legislators is critical if they are ever going to move through the legislative process for a floor vote to become law. A good indication on that likelihood is the number of cosponsors who have signed onto the bill. A cosponsor is a member of Congress who has joined one or more members in his/her chamber (i.e. House or Senate) to sponsor a bill or amendment. The member who introduces the bill is considered the sponsor. Members subsequently signing on are called cosponsors. Any number of members may cosponsor a bill in the House or Senate. At <http://thomas.loc.gov> you can also review a copy of each bill, determine its current status, the committee it has been assigned to, and if your legislator is a sponsor or cosponsor of it. To determine what bills, amendments your representative has sponsored, cosponsored, or dropped sponsorship on refer to <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d110/sponlst.html>. The key to increasing cosponsorship is letting our representatives know of veterans feelings on issues. At the end of some listed bills is a web link that can be used to do that. Otherwise, you can locate on <http://thomas.loc.gov> who your representative is and his/her phone number, mailing address, or email/website to communicate with a message or letter of your own making:

### *Senate Bills*

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**S.0022: Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Webb, Jim [VA] (introduced 1/4/07). **Cosponsors (50).** Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9242071>

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**S.0038:** A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program for the provision of readjustment and mental health services to veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Domenici, Pete V. [NM] (introduced 5/23/07). **Cosponsors (12).** Companion Bill is H.R.0025. Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

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**S.0057: Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07).

**Cosponsors (15).** Companion bill H.R.0760. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.0066:** A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to determine the validity of the claims of certain Filipinos that they performed military service on behalf of the United States during World War II. Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.0067:** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft. Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07). **Cosponsors (8).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.0071:** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize certain disabled former prisoners of war (POWs) to use DoD commissary and exchange stores. Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.0117: Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2007.** A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for members of the Armed Forces, veterans of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), and other veterans, to require reports on the effects of the GWOT, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Obama, Barack [IL] (introduced 1/4/07). **Cosponsors (15)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.0161: Veterans' Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans. Sponsor: Sen Thune, John [SD] (introduced 1/4/07). **Cosponsors (2)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9568626&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9568626&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

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**S.0207: Voluntary Support for Reservists and National Guard Members Act.** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate part or all of any income tax refund to support reservists and National Guard members. Sponsor: Sen Coleman, Norm [MN] (introduced 1/9/07). **Cosponsors (2)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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**S.0225:** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the number of individuals qualifying for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. It would expand retroactive payments of traumatic injury insurance to servicemembers injured outside a combat area between 10 OCT 01 and 1 DEC 05. Sponsor: Sen Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 1/9/07). **Cosponsors (3)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9242246>

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**S.0326: Disabled Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2007.** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special period of limitation when uniformed services retirement pay is reduced as result of award of disability compensation. Sponsor: Sen Lincoln, Blanche L. [AR] (introduced 1/17/07). **Cosponsors (29)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9294921>

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**S.0383:** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/24/07). **Cosponsors (4)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.0415: Veterans' Memorials ... Protection Act of 2007.** A bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to prevent the use of the legal system in a manner that among other things will stop the award of taxpayer dollars in legal fees to groups filing lawsuits against veterans' memorials and public displays of religion. Sponsor: Sen Brownback, Sam [KS] (introduced 1/29/07). **Cosponsors (21)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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**S.0423: Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007.** A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2007, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/29/07). **Cosponsors (10)**. 7/24/07 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 283.

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**S.0439: Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both

disability compensation from the VA for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation. Sponsor: Sen Reid, Harry [NV] (introduced 1/31/07). **Cosponsors (30)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.0479: Veterans Suicide Prevention Act.** A bill to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans. Sponsor: Sen Harkin, Tom [IA] (introduced 2/1/07). **Cosponsors (31)**. Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar 7/23/07 under General Orders. Calendar No. 279. For further action, see H.R.327, which became Public Law 110-110 on 11/5/2007.

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**S.0604: Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit increases in the certain costs of health care services under the health care programs of DoD, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Lautenberg, Frank R. [NJ] (introduced 2/15/07). **Cosponsors (20)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9388371&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9388371&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]).

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**S.0617: Veterans Eagle Parks Pass Act.** A bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at a discount to certain veterans. Sponsor: Sen Smith, Gordon H. [OR] (introduced 2/15/07). **Cosponsors (14)**. Status: Status: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Senate Subcommittee on National Parks. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 110-158.

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**S.0643: Disabled Veterans Insurance Act of 2007.** A bill to amend section 1922A of title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of supplemental insurance available for totally disabled veterans. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 2/15/07). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.0644: Total Force Montgomery GI Bill.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recodify as part of that title certain educational assistance programs for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, to improve such programs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Lincoln, Blanche L. [AR] (introduced 2/15/07). **Cosponsors (19)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.0648: National Guard and Reserve Retirement Modernization Act.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the eligibility age for receipt of non-regular military service retired pay for members of the Ready Reserve in active federal status or on active duty for significant periods. Sponsor: Sen Chambliss, Saxby [GA] (introduced 2/15/07). **Cosponsors (16)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.0659:** A bill to amend section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, to provide for the payment of the death gratuity with respect to members of the Armed Forces without a surviving spouse who are survived by a minor child. Sponsor: Sen Hagel, Chuck [NE] (introduced 2/16/07). **Cosponsors (6)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. Companion Bill is H.R.1115. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9423746&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9423746&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

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**S.0671: Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act.** A bill to exempt children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 2/16/07). **Cosponsors (11)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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**S.0713: Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act.** A bill to ensure dignity in care for members of the Armed Forces recovering from injuries. Sponsor: Sen Obama, Barack [IL] (introduced 2/28/07). **Cosponsors (34)**. Companion Bill is H.R.1268. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9454946&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9454946&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

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**S.0723: Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act of 2007.** A bill to provide certain enhancements to the Montgomery GI Bill Program for certain individuals who serve as members of the Armed Forces after the

September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Hagel, Chuck [NE] (introduced 3/1/07). **Cosponsors (2)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.0773:** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums. Sponsor: Sen Warner, John [VA] (introduced 3/6/07). **Cosponsors (59)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. Companion bill to H.R.1110. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=9598891&type=CO>

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**S.0793: Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act.** A bill to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs. Sponsor: Sen Hatch, Orrin G. [UT] (introduced 3/7/07). **Cosponsors (20)**. Companion bill to H.R.1418. Status: 8/1/2007 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 317.

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**S.0815: Veterans Health Care Empowerment Act of 2007.** A bill to provide health care benefits to veterans with a service-connected disability at non-DVA medical facilities that receive payments under the Medicare program or the TRICARE program. Sponsor: Sen Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 3/8/07). **Cosponsors (3)**. Companion bill to H.R.1416. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.0847:** A bill to extend the period of time during which a veteran's multiple sclerosis is to be considered to have been incurred in, or aggravated by, military service during a period of war. Sponsor: Sen Murray, Patty [WA] (introduced 3/13/07). **Cosponsors (2)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.0848: Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war. Sponsor: Sen Murray, Patty [WA] (introduced 3/13/07). **Cosponsors (2)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.0882:** A bill to require a pilot program on the facilitation of the transition of members of the Armed Forces to receipt of veterans health care benefits upon completion of military service, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Menendez, Robert [NJ] (introduced 3/14/07). **Cosponsors (7)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.0935:** A bill to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Nelson, Bill [FL] (introduced 3/20/07). **Cosponsors (43)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9549971&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9549971&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

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**S.0961: Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Nelson, E. Benjamin [NE] (introduced 3/22/07). **Cosponsors (58)**. Companion bill H.R.0023. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.0986: Combat-Related Special Compensation Act of 2007.** A bill to expand eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) paid by the uniformed services in order to permit certain additional retired members who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the DVA for that disability and Combat-Related Special Compensation by reason of that disability. Sponsor: Sen Reid, Harry [NV] (introduced 3/26/07). **Cosponsors (4)**. Companion bill H.R.0089. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9581151&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9581151&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

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**S.0994: Disabled Veterans Fairness Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the deductible and change the method of determining the mileage reimbursement rate under the beneficiary travel program administered by the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Tester, Jon [MT] (introduced 3/27/07). **Cosponsors (12).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1005: Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2007.** A bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve programs for veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Kerry, John F. [MA] (introduced 3/28/07). **Cosponsors (4).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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**S.1065: Heroes at Home Act of 2007.** A bill to improve the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury in members and former members of the Armed Forces, to review and expand telehealth and telemental health programs of the DoD and the DVA. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 3/29/07). **Cosponsors (8).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.1084: Homes for Heroes Act of 2007.** A bill to provide housing assistance for very low-income veterans. Sponsor: Sen Obama, Barack [IL] (introduced 4/10/07). **Cosponsors (10).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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**S.1096: Veterans Housing Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain housing benefits to disabled members of the Armed Forces, to expand certain benefits for disabled veterans with severe burns, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Cornyn, John [TX] (introduced 4/12/07). **Cosponsors (5).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1097: Cold War Medal Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War era. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 4/12/07). **Cosponsors (3).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.1146: Rural Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans who live in rural areas, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Salazar, Ken [CO] (introduced 4/18/07). **Cosponsors (26).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to <http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=10064941&queueid=1314882681>.

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**S.1147: Honor Our Commitment to Veterans Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to terminate the administrative freeze on the enrollment into the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs of veterans in the lowest priority category for enrollment (referred to as "Priority 8"). Sponsor: Sen Murray, Patty [WA] (introduced 4/18/07). **Cosponsors (4).** Companion Bill H.R.0463. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1163: Blinded Veterans Paired Organ Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation and specially adapted housing for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes, and to provide for the use of the National Directory of New Hires for income verification purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 4/19/2007). **Cosponsors (6).** Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

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**S.1196: Mental Health Care for Our Wounded Warriors Act.** A bill to improve mental health care for wounded members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Lieberman, Joseph I. [CT] (introduced 4/24/07). **Cosponsors (6).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.1205:** A bill to require a pilot program on assisting veterans service organizations and other veterans groups in developing and promoting peer support programs that facilitate community reintegration of veterans returning from active duty, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Smith, Gordon H. [OR] (introduced 4/25/07). **Cosponsors (5).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1233: Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation Act of 2007.** A bill to provide and enhance intervention, rehabilitative treatment, and services to veterans with traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 4/26/07). **Cosponsors (11).** Status: 8/29/2007 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 335.

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**S.1243:** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for nonregular service from 60 years of age to 55 years of age. Sponsor: Sen Kerry, John F. [MA] (introduced 4/26/07). **Cosponsors (7).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.1252:** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for uniformity in the awarding of disability ratings for wounds or injuries incurred by members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 4/30/07). **Cosponsors (2).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9769981&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9769981&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

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**S.1265:** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for veterans' mortgage life insurance to include members of the Armed Forces receiving specially adapted housing assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Sen Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 5/2/07). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1266: Veterans' Dignified Burial Assistance Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase assistance for veterans interred in cemeteries other than national cemeteries, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 5/2/07). **Cosponsors (1).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1283: Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for members of the Armed Forces who are receiving medical care in an outpatient status, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Pryor, Mark L. [AR] (introduced 5/3/07). **Cosponsors (2).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. Companion Bill H.R.1538. Passed by Senate and referred to a Senate/House compromise committee.

**S.1293: Veterans' Education and Vocational Benefits Improvement Act of 2007.** A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve educational assistance for members and former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 5/3/07). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1314: Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Feingold, Russell D. [WI] (introduced 5/7/07). **Cosponsors (1).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1315: Disabled Veterans Insurance Improvement Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 5/7/07). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: 8/29/2007 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 336.bill H.R.2026.

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**S.1326: Comprehensive Veterans Benefits Improvements Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance compensation and pension, health care, housing, burial, and other

benefits for veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Bernard Sanders [I-VT] (introduced 5/8/07). **Cosponsors (none)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=10072701&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=10072701&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]).

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**S.1349: Military and Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act.** A bill to ensure that the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs provide to members of the Armed Forces and veterans with traumatic brain injury the services that best meet their individual needs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Durbin, Richard [IL] (introduced 5/9/07). **Cosponsors (9)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.1363: Bridging the Gap for Wounded Warriors Act.** A bill to improve health care for severely injured members and former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 5/10/07). **Cosponsors (7)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.1409: 21st Century GI Bill of Rights Act of 2007.** A bill to provide and enhance education, housing, and entrepreneur assistance for veterans who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 5/16/07). **Cosponsors (2)**. Companion bill H.R.2385. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1441: State Veterans Home Modernization Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to accept new applications for grants for State home construction projects to authorize the Secretary to award grants for construction of facilities used in non-institutional care programs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 5/21/07). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1444: Supply Our Soldiers Act of 2007.** A bill to provide for free mailing privileges for personal correspondence and parcels sent to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 5/22/07). **Cosponsors (3)**. Status: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs referred to Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

[http://capwiz.com/naus/issues/alert/?alertid=9933621&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/naus/issues/alert/?alertid=9933621&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

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**S.1454: Veterans Burial Benefits Improvement Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial benefits for veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Mikulski, Barbara A. [MD] (introduced 5/23/07). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1468: Veterans Burial Benefits Improvement Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial benefits for veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Mikulski, Barbara A. [MD] (introduced 5/23/07). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1480: Gold Star Parents Annuity Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of a monthly stipend to the surviving parents (known as "Gold Star parents") of members of the Armed Forces who die during a period of war. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 5/24/07). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1481: Fair and Reliable Medical Justice Act.** A bill to restore fairness and reliability to the medical justice system and promote patient safety by fostering alternatives to current medical tort litigation, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Baucus, Max [MT] (introduced 5/24/07). **Cosponsors (2)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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**S.1569: Veterans Advocacy Act of 2007.** A bill to establish a pilot program on the provision of legal services to assist veterans and members of the Armed Forces receive health care, benefits and services, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Feingold, Russell D. [WI] (introduced 6/7/07). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1606: Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act.** A bill to provide for the establishment of a comprehensive policy on the care and management of wounded warriors in order to facilitate and enhance their care, rehabilitation, physical evaluation, transition from care by the Department of Defense to care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and transition from military service to civilian life, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Levin, Carl [MI] (introduced 6/13/07). **Cosponsors (46).** 6/18/07 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 203.

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**S.1645: Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008.** An original bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Reed, Jack [RI] (introduced 6/18/07). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar 6/18/07 under General Orders. Calendar No. 205.

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**S.1670: Servicemembers' Healthcare Benefits and Rehabilitation Enhancement Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care for members of the Armed Forces, to improve the speed and efficiency of the physical disability evaluation system of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Snowe, Olympia J. [ME] (introduced 6/20/07). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.1688: Higher Education Opportunity for Our National Guard and Reserve Soldiers Act.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend the time limit for the use of education assistance by members of the Selected Reserve and members of the reserve component supporting contingency operations and certain other operations. Sponsor: Sen Casey, Robert P., Jr. [PA] (introduced 6/25/07). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.1718: VETS Act.** A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for reimbursement to servicemembers of tuition for programs of education interrupted by military service, for deferment of students loans and reduced interest rates for servicemembers during periods of military service, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Brown, Sherrod [OH] (introduced 6/27/07). **Cosponsors (13).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1719:** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide additional educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill to veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math. Sponsor: Sen Brown, Sherrod [OH] (introduced 6/27/07). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1757: Veterans' Authorities Expansion Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend or make permanent certain authorities for veterans' benefits, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (by request) (introduced 7/10/07). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.1763: Cold War Medal Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War era. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 7/11/2007). **Cosponsors (2).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.1784: Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007.** A bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve programs for veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Kerry, John F. [MA] (introduced 7/12/07). **Cosponsors (6).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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**S.1822: Interest Relief Act.** A bill to amend the Federal Direct Loan Program to provide that interest shall not accrue on Federal Direct Loans for active duty service members and their spouses. Sponsor: Sen Bayh, Evan [IN] (introduced 7/19/07). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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**S.1877:** A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to prescribe that members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform may render the military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of flag. Sponsor: Sen Inhofe, James M. [OK] (introduced 7/25/07). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

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**S.1879:** A bill to amend titles 10 and 37, United States Code, to reduce the minimum age of retirement for years of non-regular service for reserves who serve on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, to increase the amount of educational assistance for members of the Selected Reserve, and to provide certain other benefits relating to service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Schumer, Charles E. [NY] (introduced 7/26/07). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.2004:** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish epilepsy centers of excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Sen Murray, Patty](#) [WA] (introduced 8/3/07). **Cosponsors (8)**. Latest Major Action: 12/12/07 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 540.

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**S.2026: Agent Orange Equitable Compensation Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, chapter 11, to clarify that an award of benefits based on a regulatory presumption established pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1116 after September 30, 2002, cannot be made effective earlier than the date the regulatory presumption was established; and to clarify that the presumption of herbicide exposure provided by 38 U.S.C. section 1116(f) applies only to veterans who served in Vietnam on land or on Vietnam's inland waterways and not to those who served only in waters offshore or in airspace above. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (by request) (introduced 9/6/07). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.2027: Veterans' Pride Initiative Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, chapter 5, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and promote programs and activities honoring veterans and to authorize the next of kin of a deceased veteran to wear the veteran's awards and decorations under certain circumstances. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (by request) (introduced 9/6/07). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.2089: Medicare Prescription Drug Gap Reduction Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the coverage gap in prescription drug coverage under part D of such title based on savings to the Medicare program resulting from the negotiation of prescription drug prices. Sponsor: Sen Nelson, Bill [FL] (introduced 9/25/07). **Cosponsors (10)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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**S.2119: American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act.** A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. Sponsor: Sen Johnson, Tim [SD] (introduced 10/1/07). **Cosponsors (71)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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**S.2142: Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse veterans receiving emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for such treatment until such veterans are transferred to Department facilities, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Brown, Sherrod [OH] (introduced 10/4/07). **Cosponsors (1)**. Latest Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

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**S.2160: Veterans Pain Care Act of 2007.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a pain care initiative in health care facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 10/15/07). **Cosponsors (4).** Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

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**S.2162: Mental Health Improvements Act of 2007.** A bill to improve the treatment and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 10/15/07). **Cosponsors (4).** Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

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**S.2218: Atomic Veterans Medal Act of 2007.** A bill to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who were exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of participation in a test of atomic weapons. Sponsor: Sen Roberts, Pat [KS] (introduced 10/23/07). **Cosponsors (1).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.2309: Compensation for Combat Veterans Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the service treatable as service engaged in combat with the enemy for utilization of non-official evidence for proof of service-connection in a combat-related disease or injury. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 11/6/07). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.2330: Veterans Homelessness Prevention Act.** A bill to authorize a pilot program within the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development with the goal of preventing at-risk veterans and veteran families from falling into homelessness, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Obama, Barack [IL] (introduced 11/8/07). **Cosponsors (1).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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**S.2377: Veterans Health Care Quality Improvement Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the quality of care provided to veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, to encourage highly qualified doctors to serve in hard-to-fill positions in such medical facilities, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Durbin, Richard [IL] (introduced 11/16/07). **Cosponsors (1).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.2383:** A bill to require a pilot program on the mobile provision of care and services for veterans in rural areas by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Klobuchar, Amy [MN] (introduced 11/16/07). **Cosponsors (1).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.2400: Wounded Warrior Bonus Equity Act.** A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to continue to pay to a member of the Armed Forces who is retired or separated from the Armed Forces due to a combat-related injury certain bonuses that the member was entitled to before the retirement or separation and would continue to be entitled to if the member was not retired or separated, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Sessions, Jeff [AL] (introduced 12/3/07). **Cosponsors (19).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.2497:** A bill to ensure that families of members of the National Guard and Reserve have full access to mental health care during the mobilization, deployment, and demobilization of such members, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Klobuchar, Amy [MN] (introduced 12/18/07). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.2536: Combat Veterans Debt Elimination Act of 2008.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from collecting certain debts to the United States in the case of veterans who die as a result of a service-connected disability incurred or aggravated on active duty in a combat zone, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Hutchison, Kay Bailey [TX] (introduced 1/22/08). **Cosponsors (None).** Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.2548:** A bill to provide for the payment of interest on claims paid by the United States in connection with the correction of military records when a military corrections board sets aside a conviction by court-martial. Sponsor: Sen Nelson, Bill [FL] (introduced 1/23/08). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.2550: Combat Veterans Debt Elimination Act of 2008.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from collecting certain debts owed to the United States by members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die as a result of an injury incurred or aggravated on active duty in a combat zone, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen Hutchison, Kay Bailey [TX] (introduced 1/23/08). **Cosponsors (18)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.2573: Veterans Mental Health Treatment First Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a program of mental health care and rehabilitation for veterans for service-related post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety disorder, or a related substance use disorder, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Burr, Richard [NC] (introduced 1/30/08). **Cosponsors (1)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. \*\*\*\*\*

**S.2575: Montgomery GI Bill Educational Assistance Transferability Act of 2008.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove certain limitations on the transfer of entitlement to basic educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Hutchison, Kay Bailey [TX] (introduced 1/30/2008). **Cosponsors (21)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.2610: Military Valor Roll of Honor Act of 2008.** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the establishment of a searchable database containing the names and citations of members of the Armed Forces, members of the United States merchant marine, and civilians affiliated with the Armed Forces who have been awarded the medal of honor or any other medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces, the United States merchant marine, or affiliated civilians. Sponsor: Sen Salazar, Ken [CO] (introduced 2/7/08). **Cosponsors (1)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.2617: Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2008.** A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2008, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 2/8/08). **Cosponsors (11)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.2625: Fairness in Housing for Disabled Veterans Act.** A bill to ensure that deferred Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts, be excluded from consideration as annual income when determining eligibility for low-income housing programs. Sponsor: Sen Harkin, Tom [IA] (introduced 2/12/08). **Cosponsors (4)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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**S.2639: Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care. Sponsor: Sen Johnson, Tim [SD] (introduced 2/14/08). **Cosponsors (5)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.2654: Citizen Soldier and Military Veteran Travel Reimbursement Act of 2008.** A bill to provide for enhanced reimbursement of servicemembers and veterans for certain travel expenses. Sponsor: Sen Coleman, Norm [MN] (introduced 2/14/08). **Cosponsors (3)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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**S.2655: To provide relief for veterans with a disability rated as total.** A bill to provide for the elimination of taxation of social security benefits for veterans with disability rated as total. Sponsor: Sen

Martinez, Mel [FL] (introduced 2/15/08) . **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance under authority of the order of the Senate of 02/14/2008.

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**S.2658:** A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend from 90 days to one year the period after release of a member from the Armed Forces from active duty during which the member is protected from mortgage foreclosure. Sponsor: Sen Kerry, John F. [MA] (introduced 2/25/2008).

**Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.2674: America's Wounded Warriors Act.** A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance procedures for the retirement of members of the Armed Forces for disability and to improve and enhance authorities for the rating and compensation of service-connected disabilities in veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Burr, Richard [NC] (introduced 2/28/08). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Companion bill HR5509.

**To oppose this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to**

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=11114251&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=11114251&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

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**S.2701:** A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery in the eastern Nebraska region to serve veterans in the eastern Nebraska and western Iowa regions. Sponsor: Sen Nelson, E. Benjamin [NE] (introduced 3/4/08). **Cosponsors (1)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.2737: Veterans' Rating Schedule Review Act.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to grant jurisdiction to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to review compliance of the schedule of ratings for disabilities under section 1151 of that title with statutory requirements applicable to entitlement to disability compensation under chapter 11 of that title, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 3/10/08). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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**S.2785: Save Medicare Act of 2008.** A bill to amend title XVIII of the Security Act to preserve access to physicians' services (Tricare & Medicare) under the Medicare program. Sponsor: Sen Stabenow, Debbie [MI] (introduced 3/13/08). **Cosponsors (None)**. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. To support this bill and/or contact your legislators refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=11183941&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=11183941&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

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[Source: <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/110search.html> 30 Mar 08 ++]