

Legislative Update

Cory Titus
Director, Government Relations
703-838-8123
coryt@moaa.org



Agenda

- National Legislative Overview
- Other Items of Interest
- Complementary Efforts
- Grassroots - Local Advocacy
- MOAA National Initiatives

National Legislative Overview

Meet your HQ Team:

Dan Merry

danm@moaa.org

René Campos

renec@moaa.org

Mark Belinsky

markb@moaa.org

Karen Ruedisueli

karenr@moaa.org

Eryn Wagnon

erynw@moaa.org

Cory Titus

coryt@moaa.org

Amanda Meyers

amandam@moaa.org

Allison Reilly

allisonr@moaa.org

Brenden McMahon

brendenm@moaa.org

Vice President

VA/Wounded Warrior Care

Currently Serving/Retired Affairs

TRICARE & Medicare

Military Family Issues

Guard/Reserve/Veterans' Benefits

Research and Analysis

Legislative Analyst

Legislation Analyst



FY2021 NDAA Update

Congress over-rode veto of H.R. 6395: Jan. 1, 2020

Key Highlights:

- Supported halt to MHS reform
- Full 3% pay raise per ECI
- No impact on BAH or TRICARE fees
- Ensuring DeCA-Exchange merger maintains the benefit
- Addition of three Agent Orange Presumptives

Veterans Bills

Bills:

- Expanded mental healthcare access – S. 785
- CARES Act Pandemic Relief – H.R. 748
- **Omnibus** – “Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020” – H.R. 7105
 - GI Bill student support
 - Deborah Sampson Act

[Overview article](#)

New Congress & Challenges Ahead

Looking Ahead to the 117th Congress:

- Slim Democrat control White House, House, and Senate
- Changing Members and Committees:
 - Dr. Roe retired (HVAC RM)
 - Rep. Thornberry (HASC RM)
- Transition delays mean President's Budget delays

We continue to watch the funding of our government:

- CRs becoming routine and waste money, stall programs, and preclude new programs

Political Divisiveness:

- Polarization makes compromise difficult
- Grassroots more important than ever...

Other Items of Interest

- Arlington National Cemetery: SecArmy proposed changes to eligibility in report to Congress September 2019
 - Federal Register Open Comment Period ended 16 Nov
 - MOAA seeking to grandfather current eligibles, and non-contiguous expansion as called for in legislation
- Still engaged with DoD privatized housing – ensuring full implementation of all provisions call for in FY 2020 NDAA

Complementary Efforts



- Never Stop Serving
- Bridge Military-Civilian Divide
- Grow your pool of prospects

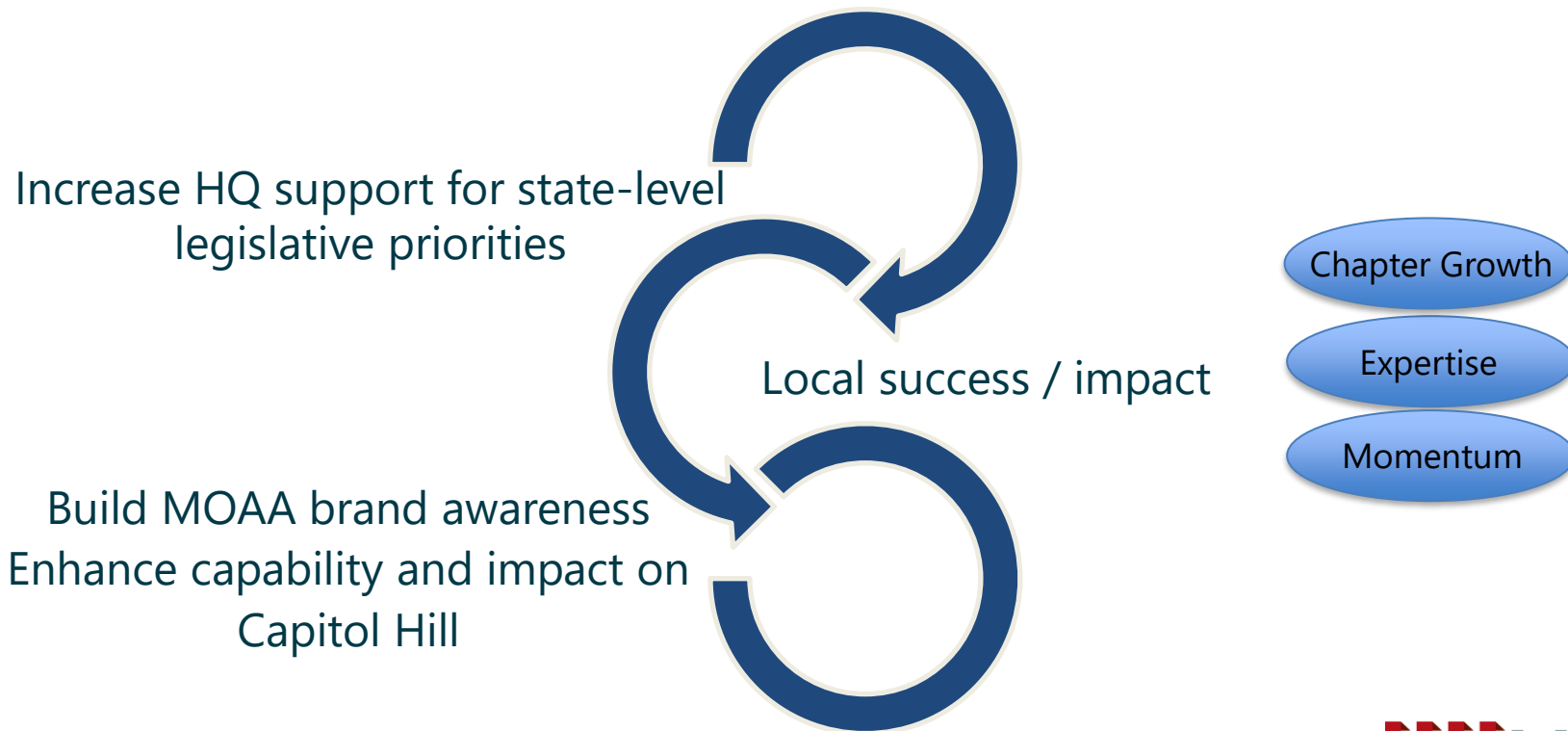
Capitol Hill

Grassroots

- Legislators listen to you first
- Community ambassadors
- Elevates MOAA's standing



Grassroots = Local Advocacy Increases Chapter Visibility



MOAA National Initiatives to Support State Advocacy






- Headquarters point of contact
- Opportunities for collaboration
 - Virtual Chapters
- Advocacy Training
- Virtual toolkit
 - State Report Card

MOAA Fly-In

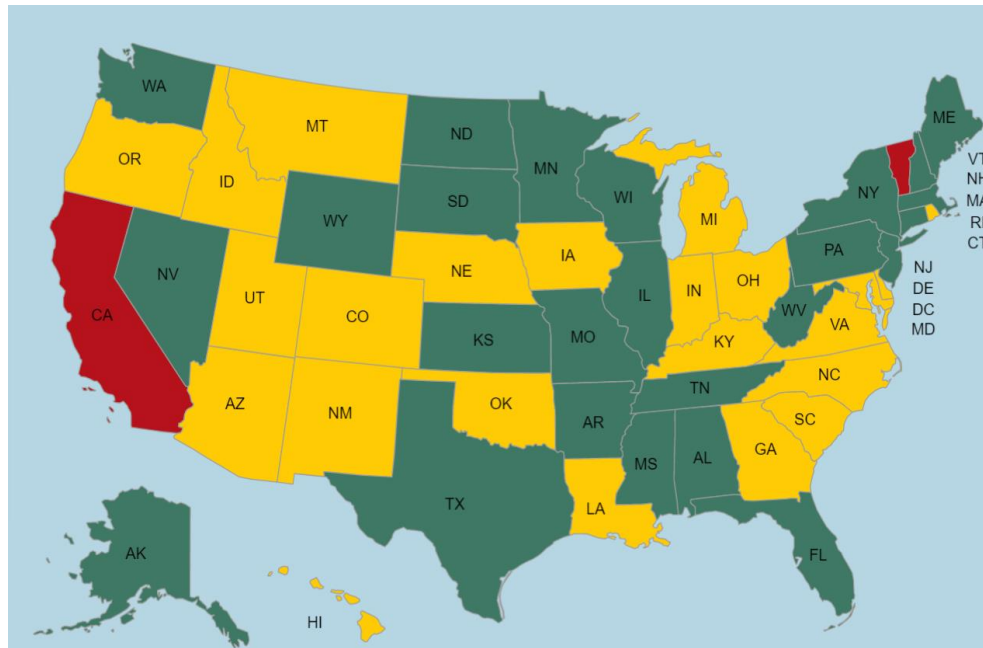
- Options being discussed:
 - Format: Virtual, hybrid, or in-person
 - Topics: Final Government Relations Committee Review
 - Rebranding Name

Advocacy: State Report Card

MILITARY TAX ASSESSMENT MAP

-  Both military retired pay (MRP) and Survivor Benefit Plan payments (SBP) are fully exempt from state taxation.
-  MRP and/or SBP receive partial exemption from state taxation.
-  Neither MRP nor SBP is exempt from state taxation

Source: MOAA Communications; current as of June 5, 2020



- Dual Maps
 - State Taxation
 - Troop & Family Issues
- Proprietary Analysis
- Member Value
- Marketing Campaign

www.moaa.org/statereportcard

State Legislative Consortium

Col Tom Robillard, USAF (Ret)

Trobillard@sc.rr.com

VP SC State Council

Legislative Affairs

Mobile: (803) 730-6109

LTC Don Wolfinger, USA (Ret)

Don17609@yahoo.com

Greater St. Louis Chapter/MO Council

Legislative Affairs

Mobile: (636) 484-0248

- Facilitate the exchange of information across councils
- Federal Legislative process:
“Storming the Hill” (at the National-level by MOAA HQ)
 - Work with staffers/legislators **at local level** for state/federal issues. Local constituents
- Sharing of programs, issues and processes at the State level.
- Use virtual communications (conference calls, Skype, Facetime, MOAA Regional Training program) as a means to share information
- Does not replace council/chapter legislative affairs activities
- MOAA Legislative Team provides guidance



Next Steps

- Identify members from each council (not limited to one person) to participate in this forum:
 - Name
 - Council/Chapter Affiliation & Position
 - Phone number
 - Email address
- Contact Tom or Don

In Summary

- Complementary efforts = mutual benefits
 - Can shape the membership dimension
- Share ideas and best practices
- Grassroots matter significantly
 - Make opportunities and create a buzz
 - Make the news (in a good way 😊)
- Provide feedback and areas of need

Open Discussion

- Questions on issues?
- What support does the Councils need from the Government Relations team?

