

## **CCD Veterans Task Force**

### **Top 3 legislative issues**

- Employment of veterans with significant disabilities
- Health care
- Creation of DOL VETS disabled veterans staff position

The task force continued to follow major pieces of legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans with disabilities throughout the year as well as hosted a number of speakers on particular topics of interest to the members. Briefings included presentations by Families USA on their report concerning the importance of Medicaid to veterans and their families as well as an update by the Tricare for Kids coalition on its release of a year-long study exploring the role Medicaid plays in supporting military and veteran families.

Employment of veterans with disabilities continued to be a significant focus of the task force. The task force began to develop a proposal to create a position devoted to veterans with disabilities within the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS) and met with officials from VETS to discuss this initiative. In July, the task force received a briefing about Bureau of Labor Statistics data covering veterans with a particular focus on those with disabilities and joined with members of the Rights Task Force and Employment and Training Task Force in comments to the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs supporting its data collection efforts for enforcement of VEVRAA and Section 503 obligations of federal contractors. The co-chairs regularly attended and reported on meetings of the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS) briefings for veterans' service organizations

Other issues that the task force followed throughout the year included implementation of the VA caregiver program expansion, funding and reauthorization of the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, Blue Water Veterans Act and other legislation before the House and Senate VA Committees.

In 2019, the task force expects to continue work on its DOL VETS disabled veterans program proposal and plans to set up appointments with appropriate committee staff early in the year. Legislation and other issues likely to be of interest to the task force includes Medicare prescription drug price negotiation, housing proposals affecting veterans with disabilities and initiatives being undertaken by the DOL Office of Disability Employment Policy focusing on employment of veterans with disabilities.

**Meeting Date and Time:** Second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m.

**Website:** [http://www.c-c-d.org/rubriques.php?rub=taskforce.php&id\\_task=16](http://www.c-c-d.org/rubriques.php?rub=taskforce.php&id_task=16)

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