



VFWA NEW MEXICO
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
Lukas Gersich Program Chair 2026-2027



Promotional August 2026

VFW Auxiliary National Ambassador - Kim McWilliams
VFW State Auxiliary President - Michelle Dennisson
VFW State Auxiliary Secretary - Betty Decker

Greetings again fellow New Mexicans.

If you have been keeping up to date there is a lot of confusion on what is going on in congress with the Take Care of America's Veterans Act and the Richard Star Act and it is my honor to try to help with the confusion.

What is the Take Care of America's Veterans Act? In short it is more than 60 individual bills wrapped into one act, including the Richard Star Act.

“The Take Care of America’s Veterans Act introduced by House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Chairman Mike Bost (R-Ill.) and Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Chairman Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) is a comprehensive veterans’ package that includes more than 60 bipartisan bills to modernize, enhance, and reform the delivery of healthcare and benefits services at VA for the entire veteran community.” This is straight from the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs website.

https://veterans.house.gov/uploadedfiles/one_pager_on_take_care_of_americas_vets_act_approved.pdf

What does this all include besides the Richard Star act that I wrote about last month? Some bills are directly supporting veterans health needs and access to them, such as the The Veterans’ ACCESS Act and the The Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act. Some other bills support the spouses of veterans also like; Love Lives On Act for surviving spouses of fallen servicemember and Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act which will extend medical coverage by 6 months to caregivers after the veteran passes.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and thank you for your time.

Luke Gersich