

# HEALTH

## - POLICY STATEMENT -

The New York State Grange takes an active role in raising awareness of problems in the health care field, especially the unique needs of the rural community. We, as an organization, actively work with other rural agencies and organizations to make everyone aware of these challenges, helping to find solutions, including telemedicine and telehealth.

Ever-rising health care costs mean that more people are unable to afford adequate health care for themselves and their families. Experience has shown that some government-sponsored and administered programs have helped but have not been fully effective.

The Grange continues to work for a compromise on health care reform issues. We encourage the continuation of freedom to choose doctors and the facilities we wish to use. We are a strong advocate for rural areas so that their special needs are not neglected by those who shape our policies.

We must continue to be an active participant in all health care reform debates. Areas which continue to need our attention are the cost of prescription medications, the rising availability of counterfeit medication, long-term care and catastrophic illness insurance coverage, veterans' medical benefits, the protection of personal assets and financial savings to pay for long-term care and Medicare reforms.

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Medicaid is another government program which consumes a large share of taxpayer money. Efforts must be made to contain the cost of the Medicaid program. More emphasis should be placed on preventive or "well-care" services.

Young people are our most valuable asset and the future of the Grange. We must support measures to protect the health and well-being of our country's youth.

We advocate increased awareness and education about suicide prevention, substance abuse and mental health issues at the community and state levels.

October 2023

## **CARE/TREATMENT OF MINORS**

### **ELECTRIC SHOCK TREATMENT BAN**

We support legislation that would ban the use of electric shock treatment and that further investigation be done into alternate, less severe treatments for any individuals. (2022)

### **INFANT HEARING TESTING**

We support legislation that would encourage the testing for hearing impairments in children from birth up to and including age three. (2019)

### **TYPE 1 DIABETES TESTING IN CHILDHOOD**

We support legislation that would seek to ensure timely diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes by requiring the testing of any child who presents with two or more symptoms of Type 1 Diabetes, to increase awareness of T1D and to aid in decreasing the childhood diabetes mortality rate. (2023)

## **EMERGENCY CARE/VOLUNTEERS**

### **FAIR PLAY AMBULANCE COST RECOVERY ACT**

We support passage of the Fair Play Ambulance Recovery Act or similar legislation that would allow volunteer emergency services the opportunity to bill for their work in order to sustain a budget to continue to provide this crucial service, particularly in those areas where such services are provided by volunteer departments. (2022)

### **FUNDING FOR MEDICAL HELICOPTERS**

We support legislation that would provide annual funding for helicopter services as a part of New York State Rural Health Services. (2020)

### **LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEER INCENTIVE ACT**

We support the Emergency Services Volunteer Incentive Act which would help local communities reverse the decline in the number of volunteer firefighters and emergency services personnel. (2020)

### **RURAL EMERGENCY RESPONDER TRAINING**

We Support legislation that would establish a grant program such as the “Rural Emergency Live Training Program Revolving Capital Fund” that would provide grants to help defray the cost of the “Farmedic Program” training for first responders and medical staff in the unique dangers of rural and agricultural accidents. (2023)

## **SUPPORTING ACCURATE VIEWS OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (SAVES) ACT**

We support legislation that would reclassify 9-1-1 call-takers and dispatchers from “Office and Administrative Support Occupations” to “Protective Service Occupations” in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Catalog. (2019)

## **FOOD/NUTRITION**

### ***BAN RED #3 DYE***

*We request the Food and Drug Administration to ban the use of erythrosine, otherwise known as FD&C Red #3 dye, in any products used for human consumption. (2023)*

### ***CAFFEINE LEVELS IN ENERGY DRINKS***

*We support legislation that would direct the Food and Drug Administration to investigate the high levels of caffeine in energy drinks which can have possible impacts on young children such as heart problems, digestive issues, and anxiety. (2023)*

### **CAFFEINE LABELING**

We urge passage of legislation requiring all food and beverage processors to list on the standardized nutrition label the amount of caffeine in their products. (2019)

### **FOREIGN BABY FORMULA IN UNTIED STATES MARKETS**

We support legislation that would allow foreign made baby formula, as long as it meets the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations, to be marketed in the United States to ensure the long-term supply chain of infant formula. (2022)

### **HEAVY METALS IN BABY FOOD**

We support legislation that would reduce the number of heavy metals in baby food such as cadmium, inorganic arsenic, lead, and mercury. (2021)

### **HUMAN BREAST MILK BANKS**

We support the continuation of strong regulatory oversight for human breast milk banks, which procure this milk for at-risk babies in hospital neonatal units, whose mothers cannot provide their own breast milk and we encourage more education materials be made available to mothers who may wish to donate their extra breast milk to regulated breast milk banks by local lactation support groups and the New York State Department of Health. (2022)

## **HUMAN FOOD PROGRAM UNDER THE FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

We support legislation that would consider the recommendations of the Reagan-Udall Foundation 2022 study of the Food and Drug Administration to unify the Human Food Program under a deputy commissioner of foods who is a food safety expert solely focused on our food supply under the Food and Drug Administration. (2023)

## **LOCALLY SUPPLIED FOODS**

We support legislation that would establish a fresh fruit and vegetable program in schools encouraging the purchase of locally grown produce when available, through direct payments from the state to the school food services for the purchase of these products. (2020)

## **TITANIUM DIOXIDE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

We oppose the use of TiO<sub>2</sub>, Titanium Dioxide, in any food products made or sold in the United States regardless of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval as a food additive until further research has been completed to determine its safety for human consumption in the United States. (2022)

## **FUNDING**

### **EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR UPSTATE HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES**

We support legislation which would reform the formulas for distribution of state health funding to hospitals and nursing homes making them equivalent to the current population percentage that lives in the upstate counties. (2023)

### **FACILITIES/FUNDING FOR TREATMENT/EDUCATION OF OPIOID DRUG USAGE**

We urge the New York State Legislature to support bills that would increase funding for treatment and education facilities regarding opioid drugs; that some existing public facilities, that are not longer in use, be repurposed as treatment and education facilities; those funds acquired through opioid lawsuits be applied to opioid treatment and education programs in New York State. (2019)

## **HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY**

### **ENFORCEMENT OF HANDICAPPED (SPECIAL NEEDS) PARKING**

We support increased police enforcement of existing laws and regulations for illegal uses of handicapped/special needs parking permits. (2020)

## **HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND HOTELS**

We support legislation that requires all newly constructed and remodeled public buildings to have all ground level exits made handicapped accessible to accommodate those people with physical disabilities to get out safely and efficiently. (2020)

We recommend that all public and professional buildings be equipped with handicap toilets and assistance handrails in their restrooms and that code laws be enforced. (2020)

## **HEALTH CARE WORKERS/PRACTITIONERS**

### **EXPANSION OF “THE DOCTORS ACROSS NEW YORK” PROGRAM**

We support legislation that would allow the Commissioner of Health to include dentists in the “Doctors Across New York” Program to provide dental services to underserved areas of the state and would extend the duration of the program. (2019)

### **GERIATRICIAN PHYSICIAN LOAN REPAYMENT**

We support legislation that would grant loan forgiveness for physicians who agree to practice in the field of geriatric medicine for five (5) years so that there are adequate physicians for our aging population. (2023)

### **NEW YORK STATE LICENSED ACUPUNCTURISTS**

We support insurance parity for licensed Acupuncturists. (2020)

### **NURSE PRACTITIONERS**

We are opposed to legislation that would negate the need of physician collaborative agreement for Nurse Practitioners in the regular scope of practice. (2023)

### **NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIOS**

We request legislation be adopted to safeguard nurses and patient health and safety that would require: (1) hospitals to have a nurse driven staffing committee which creates staffing plans that reflect the needs of the patient population and match the skills and experience of the staff; (2) facilities to disclose staffing levels to the public and/or a regulatory body (2020)

### **NURSING SHORTAGE CORRECTION ACT**

We urge the New York State Legislature to reconsider the Nursing Shortage Correction Act as the shortage of nursing programs has become very acute in New York State. (2023)

## **PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS REAUTHORIZATION ACT**

*We support passage of legislation titled the “Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023” or similar legislation that would support the dissemination by the Centers for Disease Control and the Health and Human Services Administration for best practices to prevent maternal mortality to hospitals and other health care providers. (2023)*

## **PROTECTING HEALTH CARE WORKERS FROM AIRBORNE INFECTION DISEASES**

We support specific federal regulations protecting health care workers from airborne pathogens that may lead to death by assuring a plan is in place for obtaining necessary personal protective equipment. (2021)

## **REGULATORY BURDEN ON HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

We ask Congress and the President’s administration to take immediate action to reduce regulatory burdens and duplication to enhance care coordination by allowing providers to focus on patients instead of paperwork. (2023)

## **SHORTAGE OF RURAL PHYSICIANS**

We support legislation that would establish incentives, such as loan forgiveness that would encourage doctors/physicians and other health care professionals to establish practices in rural areas. (2023)

## **TELEMEDICINE/TELEHEALTH**

We support elimination of regulatory and statutory impediments to broaden the use of telemedicine and telehealth and institute a more uniform approach for reimbursement and that defined scopes of practice for practitioners need to be reassessed from the perspective of maximizing available resources to meet community needs. (2022)

We support the “New York State Telehealth/Telemedicine Act” that amended the public health law, in relation to promoting the development, provision and accessibility of Telehealth/Telemedicine services in New York State and to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing a New York State Telehealth/Telemedicine development and research grant fund. (2023)

## **HOSPITALS**

### **HOSPITAL CLOSURE/HEALTH CARE GAP**

We support legislation that would require maintaining full access to health care in spite of closures of community hospitals that causes health care gaps in New York State. (2022)

## **HOSPITAL HEALTH CARE PRICE TRANSPARENCY**

We support legislation that would achieve meaningful price transparency for charges for hospital health care. (2022)

## **INSURANCE/HMO's**

### **AMBULANCE SERVICE**

We support the current General Municipal Law 209B which approves reimbursement when an ambulance is called, and Advanced Life Support is required (2023)

### **AMEND THE FAMILY LEAVE ACT**

We encourage the members of the New York State Legislature to amend the Family Leave Act to authorize leave for bereavement due to fetal death, miscarriage, still birth of an infant, due to the medical non viability of an infant, or due to loss of a child from the failure of a surrogacy. (2023)

### **CHIROPRACTIC CARE AS COMPREHENSIVE CARE/COVERAGE**

We support changes to New York State Insurance regulations that would include chiropractic services as part of an insured person's comprehensive health care service and to reimburse the insured or pay the provider for chiropractic services provided. (2023)

### **ELDERLY PHARMACEUTICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE (EPIC) PROGRAM**

We support the continuance of the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage Program (EPIC) to assist in keeping the cost of medicine reasonable for our senior citizens. (2022)

### **EYE EXAM COVERAGE**

We support legislation that would require New York State No-Fault Insurance to include coverage for eye exams by an Optometrist, where needed, after an auto accident involving any head trauma or injury. (2022)

### **HEALTH CARE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS**

We support legislation that would reverse the limitation on the use of Health Care Flexible Spending Accounts to purchase over-the-counter medications and puts an end to the "use-it-or-lose-it" nature of the accounts by allowing participants to "cash-out" their own unused money at the end of each calendar year. (2022)

## **HEALTH INSURANCE CO-PAYS**

We urge health insurance companies to lower the co-pays for follow-up doctor appointments. (2023)

## **HEALTH INSURANCE TAX CREDITS**

We support proposed legislation that would provide a tax credit to qualified small employers, including farmers, when they purchase health insurance for their employees. (2019)

## ***KEEPING HEALTH DATA PRIVATE***

*We support legislation that would extend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, to guarantee privacy protection for any personal information related to our health unless required to do so by court order. (2023)*

## **MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

We oppose any regulatory requirements that would make health insurance coverage mandatory for all businesses in New York State. (2021)

## **MENTAL HEALTH ACCESSIBILITY**

We request the State and Federal regulators to ensure that insurance companies are abiding by parity laws already in the books to correct what remains an unequal health care system for patients with behavioral health conditions. (2023)

## **PATIENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS LEGISLATION**

We support legislation regarding a Patients Bill of Rights which grants subscribers of HMO plans more avenues to challenge the decisions of their HMO when care is denied for a life-threatening illness. (2021)

## **PRESERVE LOCAL CONTROL FOR ACTIVE AND RETIREE INSURANCE BENEFITS**

We oppose any State mandated restriction which would affect a local government's control over the provision of health care benefits to its active or retired officers and employees. (2021)

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER SERVICES**

We support legislation that amends New York State Insurance Law, as it relates to insurance coverage for substance abuse disorder services, requiring insurance companies to provide at least ninety days of inpatient rehabilitation services to an insured upon a doctor's prescription. (2021)



## **MALPRACTICE**

### **MALPRACTICE SUITS**

We support the use of an experience rating system for determining rates for medical malpractice insurance premiums. (2023)

### **MEDICAL MALPRACTICE FOR MILITARY DOCTORS**

We urge legislators to override the 1950 Supreme Court ruling that prevents medical malpractice suits against military doctors except for combat situations. (2019)

## **MEDICAL RECORDS**

### **RELEASE OF MEDICAL RECORDS FOR TREATMENT**

We urge the New York State Legislature to modify Public Health Law 17 to remove language that requires a written request or authorization from a patient before a healthcare provider can release protected health information to another health care provider for purposes of continuing treatment. (2019)

## **MEDICARE/MEDICAID/HEALTH CARE COSTS**

### **CHOOSE HOME CARE ACT OF 2021**

We support the Choose Home Care Act of 2021 which gives Medicare patients a choice of post-hospitalization care in the home rather than institutional care. (2021)

### ***DIABETIC SENSOR/READER APPLIANCE MEDICARE COVERAGE***

*We urge Medicare to review its current policy regarding the coverage of the diabetic “continuous glucose monitoring” (CGM) device and change its prescription coverage to allow refills every 28 days rather than 30 days. (2023)*

### **FRAUDULENT PRACTICES**

We support legislation to curtail fraud in the health care industry. (2020)

We urge State and Federal agencies to be more aggressive in their investigation of fraud, waste and abuse within the Medicare and Medicaid systems. (2022)

### **HEALTH CARE COSTS**

We support legislation that curbs spiraling health care costs. (2020)

## **HEARING AID COVERAGE**

We support legislation which calls for a change in Medicare coverage to include hearing aids. (2022)

## **IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE MEDICATION**

We support legislation that would eliminate the 36-month time limit for Medicare coverage for immunosuppressive medications for transplant recipients. (2019)

## **LOWER DRUG COSTS NOW ACT**

We support legislation that would help relieve the high cost of prescription drugs for older Americans by empowering the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate the price of many of the most expensive drugs each year that do not have generic alternatives, cap the amount of money Part D Medicare enrollees would have to pay out-of-pocket annually, and penalize drug manufacturers that raise the prices of their medicines by more than the rate of inflation. (2020)

## **MEDICAID COSTS**

We support all efforts to limit the growth of all Medicaid costs. (2020)

## **MEDICAID COVERAGE OUT-OF-STATE**

We support changes in Medicaid regulations that would charge the home state of the legal residence of a person on Medicaid when he/she needs emergency medical attention in a state he/she is visiting. (2019)

## **MEDICARE DRUG SAVINGS**

We support legislation, such as the Medicare Drug Savings Act, that would allow Medicare to negotiate with United States pharmaceutical companies to get the lowest rates on prescription drugs as long as the quality remains the same. (2019)

## **MEDICARE FOR EYEWEAR**

We recommend eyewear be included in the Medicare coverage as needed. (2022)

## **MEDICARE PART A OBSERVATION STAYS**

We support legislation that would: (1) amend Medicare Part so that if a person is placed in observation status, it should be considered as “Admitted as an inpatient” to the hospital and that Medicare Part A cover the cost; (2) require Medicare to accept the observation period to count toward the three-day inpatient stay requirement for a patient to receive care in a skilled nursing facility. (2021)

## **MULTI-CANCER EARLY DETECTION (MCED) SCREENING COVERAGE ACT**

We support legislation that would ensure Medicare coverage for the lifesaving screening tools, including access to proven multi-cancer early detection (MCED) tests. (2023)

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR MEDICAID TRANSPORTATION**

We support legislation that would amend section 365-h (4) of the Social Services Law establishing that the Commissioner of Health, where applicable, assumes responsibility for transportation of Medicaid recipients in rural counties; a public transportation system shall be prioritized for assignment where the system is available, appropriate, and the least expensive means. (2021)

## **NURSING HOMES**

### **NURSING HOME ABUSE**

We support all efforts to investigate and prosecute nursing home abuse. (2021)

### **NURSING HOME OPERATION INVESTIGATIONS**

We support legislation that would authorize the Attorney General the authority to investigate and take appropriate actions that would seek to protect the interest of the public or occupants of nursing home/long term care facilities that may operating at less than the standard as established by the Commissioner of Health. (2022)

## **ORGAN DONATION**

### **ORGAN DONOR LIST**

We support legislation that would ensure that New York's youth are being properly educated on what it means to be an organ donor so younger people can be informed on such a decision at an earlier age and would add human organ delivery vehicles to the list of authorized emergency vehicles in the state to ensure the safe and speedy transportation of life-saving organs to and from their destinations. (2021)

### **“PRESUMED CONSENT” TO HARVEST ORGANS**

We oppose any legislation which automatically makes it illegal to harvest a deceased person's organs and/or tissue under “presumed consent”. (2020)

## **PRESCRIPTIONS/MEDICATIONS/TESTING**

### **AFFORDABLE INSULIN BILL**

We encourage the United State Senate to pass the Affordable Insulin Act, that would cap out of pocket costs of insulin products at \$35 per month for people with private insurance. Medicare Part D plan (including Medicare Advantage drug plan), and the diabetic patients without insurance coverage. For commercial plans, this applies to one of each dosage form (vial, pump, inhaler) of each different type of insulin (rapid acting, short-acting, intermediate-acting, long acting, ultra-long acting and premixed). (2022)

### **APPROVAL FOR GENERIC AND BIO-SIMILAR DRUGS**

We support legislation that would allow generic and bio-similar drugs to receive approval faster and to have a free market for how products are priced. (2023)

### **COUNTERFEIT MEDICATIONS**

We support all continued legal and legislative action necessary to eliminate the source of counterfeit medications and to pursue prosecution of those found responsible for the making and marketing of them and support increased efforts to educate the public on the dangers of obtaining medications from unreliable sources. (2022)

#### ***ENSURING ACCESS TO LIFESAVINGS DRUGS ACT***

*We support passage of the “Ensuring Access to Lifesaving Drugs Act” or any similar legislation that would ensure access to all cancer treatment drugs for cancer patients. (2023)*

### **HERBAL SUPPLEMENTS**

We support legislation that would require all herbal supplements to be verified to contain what they list on their product to ensure safety for the consumer. (2020)

### **MANDATORY MAIL ORDER DRUG LAW**

We support legislation to clarify and strengthen provisions in current law to ensure that consumers have the option to access every covered medication for a local network participating pharmacy and are not forced into mandatory mail order. (2019)

### **MEDICATION IDENTIFICATION**

We support the regulation of the packaging of prescription medications, so different strengths of the same type of medicine are recognizably different from each other. (2023)

## **MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

We support the medicinal use of marijuana legislation that includes the following conditions:

1. the New York State Health Department register organizations or physicians to acquire, possess, manufacture, sell, deliver, transport, and distribute marijuana for certified medical use for “a severe debilitating or life-threatening condition,”
2. that legislation would not require public or private health plans to cover the costs of medical marijuana. (2023)

## **PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUG TESTING FOR PARTICIPANTS IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

We support legislation that would allow testing of students for performance enhancing drugs who are participating in school activities to detect illegal use if there is reasonable suspicion. (2020)

## **SCHEDULE II OPIOID ACCESS**

We support legislation that would require patient counseling before issuing a prescription for Schedule II opioids; require practitioners to consult with the patient regarding the quantity of the opioid medication to be prescribed; the patient’s option to fill the prescription in a lesser quantity; to inform the patient of the risks associated with opiate addiction and document the reasons for the prescriptions. (2019)

## **SUPERVISED INJECTION FACILITIES**

We oppose any supervised injection facility for the use of illegal drugs (2021)

## **PROSTHETICS**

### **HEARING AIDS, EYEGASSES AND PROSTHETIC DEVICES REPLACEMENT**

We favor revision of the New York State Insurance Laws to allow replacement of hearing aids, eyeglasses, and prosthetic devices without regard to depreciation scale, and that replacement of the hearing aids, eyeglasses, and prosthetic devices be made as soon as possible after a claim is made and prior to a formal settlement. (2021)

### **PROSTHETIC PARITY**

We urge the United States Congress to pass legislation which will provide amputees with the same amount of coverage as Medicare, which covers 80% of the cost for a prosthesis. (2020)

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **BPA PLASTICS IDENTIFICATION**

We support legislation that would ban the use of Bisphenol A (BPA) in all plastics and would require manufacturers to code their products and label products BPA free, if appropriate, and that more effort needs to be made to educate the consumer on the risk factors of BPA and the code number system on plastic containers. (2023)

### **PUBLIC WATER ON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

We support the State granting financial assistance to aid the county fairs in assuring that water, for human consumption, meets standards of connections with public water or chlorinating systems if New York State and/or the county health department require it. (2019)

## **REFORM**

### **HEALTH CARE REFORM**

We urge that any health care reform legislation includes measures that will address the special needs of rural areas, such as the shortage of doctors, adequate health care facilities and meaningful changes to make health care and prescription drugs affordable and available to all. (2022)

## **RESEARCH/PROGRAMS**

### **9-8-8 SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT**

We support the 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Act which includes a hotline system providing crisis intervention service and care coordination to individuals in need. (2022)

### **DEMENTIA/ALZHEIMER'S DRUG RESEARCH**

We support legislation that would approve market exclusivity for orally administered medicines that can slow the progression of dementia and Alzheimer's, to ensure that this critical challenge receives the pharmaceutical industry's attention that it needs. (2020)

### **HUMAN CLONING**

We oppose human cloning. (2021)

## **LYME DISEASE**

We support governmental efforts on the state and national level to fund research on the prevention and treatment of Lyme Disease and educate the public about its prevention, detection, and treatment. (2022)

We support changes in the insurance regulations so that health insurers would provide coverage for acute and long-term medical care for Lyme Disease and other tick-borne related pathogens. (2019)

We support legislation that authorizes the New York State Department of Health Tick-Borne Disease Institute to maintain funding in their annual budget of at least \$1 million to provide grants for organizations in New York to execute proper research, detection, education, and outreach efforts to combat tick-borne illnesses. (2019)

## ***NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CRISIS HOTLINE ACT***

*We support legislation proposed that would establish a National Agricultural Crisis Hotline that would provide mental health support to agricultural workers and their families. (2023)*

## **“Q” FEVER**

We request that the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health and the New York Department of Health to create and disseminate information that would inform medical providers and the at large community with the signs, symptoms, treatment, and causes of the infection known as “Q” Fever which results from the exposure to infected animal feces, urine, and birthing by-products. (2022)

We encourage the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to do further research on “Q” Fever that will develop effective treatments for this illness and that any information be disseminated to agricultural organizations for publication to inform their members about “Q” fever. (2022)

## **TOXIC EXPOSURE RESEARCH ACT**

We support legislation that would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to select a VA medical center to serve as the national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the biological children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces that are related to such exposure. (2020)

## **UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD BANK**

We support the creation of a public umbilical cord blood banking program, overseen by the Department of Health, to increase public awareness of the potential benefits of public umbilical cord blood banking, to promote research into the uses of umbilical cord blood and to facilitate pre-delivery arrangements for public banking of umbilical cord blood donations. (2019)

## **WEST NILE VIRUS**

We urge the New York State Department of Health to redirect their research to include the possible effects on the environment and humans when using the spraying of pesticides to control the mosquitoes and the spread of the West Nile Virus. (2020)

## **YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION**

We support legislation to expand suicide prevention education and resources to schools, service organizations, and state agencies. (2019)

## **TREATMENTS**

### **TREATMENT FOR EATING DISORDERS**

We support legislation that would require insurance companies to provide full coverage for all aspects of treatment for all eating disorders. (2019)

### **TREATMENT OF GAMBLING PROBLEMS**

We support legislation authorizing the use of a portion of all gambling generated revenues to fund expanded programs for the prevention, education, and treatment of gambling problems. (2023)

## **VETERANS**

### **CAMP LEJEUNE WATER CONTAMINATION**

We support legislation that would require the Veterans Administration to pay compensation benefits on a presumptive basis to any veteran that was stationed at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between 1953 and 1987 and who subsequently developed cancer of the esophagus, lung, breast, renal toxicity, hepatic steatosis, female infertility, miscarriage, scleroderma and/or neurobehavioral effects of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. (2021)

### **COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF PRE-9/11 VETERANS**

We support legislation that would extend "Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers" to caregivers of all war era veterans. (2023)

### **FAMILY HEALTH INSURANCE**

We support legislation that would change the laws for health coverage for veterans with service-connected disabilities and their families, to include their spouse and children. (2019)



## **FORT McCLELLAN REGISTRY**

We support legislation that would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish and maintain a special registry of everyone who served at Fort McClellan between 1935 and 1999 and require the VA to look into the health of any soldier who had trained and/or worked at the former Army base. (2019)

## **LAUREL BAY HOUSING AREA CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION**

We support legislation that would expedite the two-pronged process that includes an environmental study and an epidemiological study at Laurel Bay Housing Area, South Carolina to determine if chemical contamination is responsible for cancers in residents. (2022)

## **POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) PROGRAM**

We support legislation that would allow the River Hospital in Alexandria Bay, NY to continue treating soldiers having PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and not require soldiers to receive their PTSD treatment on a military base. (2020)

## **PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS**

We support legislation that requires the Veterans Administration to pay benefits to in-country Vietnam veterans effective the first day of the month that the veteran was diagnosed with the service-connected presumptive condition. (2019)

## **PRIORITY GROUP 6 FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE**

We support legislation to amend Title 38 to give the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) the authority to enroll WWII veterans in “Priority Group 6” for the purpose of receiving VA health care services. (2023)

## **PRIVATIZATION OF VETERAN ADMINISTRATION HEALTH CARE**

We oppose the privatization of the Veterans Administration Health Care. (2021)

## **PROSTATE CANCER**

We support legislation that would require the Veterans Administration to pay Title 38 VA compensation benefits to veterans having prostate cancer surgery, effective the date of said surgery rather than the date the veteran files a claim. (2019)

## **SERVICE-CONNECTED COMPENSATION FOR TINNITUS**

We support legislation that would allow for a separate 10% disability rating for each ear in veterans experiencing tinnitus in each ear. (2022)

## **SERVICE-RELATED INFORMATION ON HEALTH ADMISSION FORMS**

We support legislation that requires hospitals and physicians to include information regarding the military service of patients or persons close to patients on admission forms, including where and when the person served, what their job description was, and are they currently registered with the Veterans Administration and/or receiving benefits from the Veterans Administration to aid/expedite the treatment of any service-related illnesses. (2023)

## **TRICARE CO-PAY INCREASES**

We support legislation that would keep TRICARE co-pays at their current level. (2021)

## **TRICARE FOR RESERVE COMPONENTS AND DEPENDENTS**

We urge Congress to authorize and fund the Department of Defense (DOD) in providing permanent TRICARE healthcare for members of the Reserve Components and their dependents. (2023)

## **VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT**

We oppose any legislation that would dis-enroll any veteran who is currently receiving health care coverage through the Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care System. (2021)

## **VETERANS HOSPITALS**

We support the action to permanently remove all Veterans Administration Hospital directors/administrative employees who participated in maintaining secret patient lists which prevented veterans from getting medical appointments at Veterans hospitals. (2019)

## **VETERANS REPRODUCTIVE INJURIES**

We support legislation that would compensate men and women veterans for reproductive injuries that prevent the veteran from having children and that this benefit for the “loss or loss of use of creative organs” would be above and beyond any disability compensation the veteran receives. (2021)