

Florida Council of Chapters *2023 Legislation Review*

Florida Council of Chapters Annual Convention
St. Augustine
May 19-21, 2023

Bob Bienvenue, Lt Col, USAF retired
2023 AiA Team Captain
FCoC Legislative Committee Chair



Florida Council of Chapters *2023 Legislation Review*

OUTLINE

- ✓ AiA Recap
- ✓ Review of Activity Since FCoC Leaders Symposium
- ✓ FL Military Friendly Legislation
- ✓ August Recess AiA Visits



Florida Council of Chapters *2023 Advocacy-in Action Campaign*



170 MOAA members & Staff Go to the Hill -- 480 Congressional Appointments
The Offices of all 30 members of the Florida Congressional Delegation were visited

Florida Council of Chapters

2023 Advocacy-in Action Campaign



Florida Council of Chapters *2023 Advocacy-in Action Campaign*

Our Constituents

MOAA Regular & Surviving spouse members: **35,658**

Active Duty servicemembers: **64,318**

Active Duty family members: **92,880**

Retired DoD military: **215,796**

Retired military dependents: **330,000 est**

Approximately 700,000 Florida Residents



Florida Council of Chapters *2023 Advocacy-in Action Campaign*

Our Team



Florida Council of Chapters

2023 Advocacy-in Action Campaign

Our Visits



Florida Council of Chapters

Active Legislative Campaigns

Messages Sent since January

✓ Support the All Volunteer Force		762
✓ Reverse TRICARE Pharmacy Network Cuts		610
✓ Restore Basic Allowance for Housing to 100%	HR 2537	755
Expand Arlington National Cemetery	HR 1413	520
Military Spouse Hiring Act	HR 1277 & S 596	180
Health Care Fairness	HR 3497	79
Major Richard Star Act	HR 1282 & S 344	1537
Prevent Tricare for Life enrollment fees		3289
Military Food Security	HR 1764 & S 497	----

Plus 30 others on the MOAA Supported Legislation List

Go here to check on the support by your Representative

[MOAA | Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://quorum.us)

✓ Advocacy in Action Issue



Florida Legislative Advocacy

DSLO, FCoC and the Florida Defense Alliance
are partners in their common mission to :

*Strengthen state support for military families and veterans with a focus on
education, health care, employment **and family programs***

Florida's **Military Family Working Group** met with Legislators
in advance of the 2023 session to find sponsors
on the issues advanced by DSLO.



Florida Legislation Advocacy

Military Family Friendly Legislation

- ❑ **Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact** --- authorizing teachers licensed in one member state to become licensed in another member state.
H 1125: passed 116 -0; S 1446: passed 40 -0. *AWAITING GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE*
- ❑ **Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact** --- provides for recognition of psychologist licenses in compact states.
H 033: passed 115-0; S 056: passed 39-0. *AWAITING GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE*
- ❑ **Provisional Child Care Licensing** – provides licensure exemptions for Military Family Child Care providers.
S 538: passed 38-0; House: passed 118-0 *AWAITING GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE*
- ❑ **Practice of Audiology and Speech-language Pathology Compact** -- provides for recognition to practice audiology & speech-language pathology, including through telehealth, in member states.
H 877: *Not advanced in this year's session.*



Florida Legislation Advocacy

Status of DSLO promoted Licensing Compacts - 2/14 passed; 2 others pending

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

Audiology/Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Cosmetology Licensure Compact

Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact

Emergency Medical Services Licensure Compact

Licensed Professional Counseling Compact (2022)

Interstate Massage Therapy Compact

Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (*pending*)

Nurse Licensure Compact (2016)

Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact

Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

Physician Associates Compact

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (*pending*)

Social Work Licensure Compact

Status of Additional DSLO Key Issues – one pending

Licensure Exemptions for Military Family Child Care providers (*pending*)

Military and Family Life Counselor Licensure Waiver



Florida Council of Chapters

August Recess AiA Campaign

Congressional action is necessary to reverse the erosion of compensation and benefits affecting quality-of-life for active and retired military families and impacting recruitment for the All-Volunteer Force.

The HASC had begun their markup of the NDAA, which has been delayed due to debt ceiling negotiations

The Summer (and quite possibly fall) Advocacy Campaigns will evolve from the respective HASC and SASC NDAA's.

Main issues will be the important provisions that need to be pushed into the NDAA drafts.

HASC Quality of Life panel being led by Congressman Don Bacon will be a big focus for ensuring MOAA priorities are considered fairly.



Florida Council of Chapters

August Recess AiA Campaign

- Ongoing updates in the MOAA Newsletter
- Check your Legislators Co-sponsorship status
- Copy District Office on messages sent through MOAA's LAC
- Council Officers to cover Senators
- VPs to sort out chapter assignments for the 28 Congressional Districts
 - Engage the April AIA team members
 - Multiple Chapters in same districts
 - Request meetings in separate district offices
 - Team Chapters together to make a combined visit
 - No Chapter presence in a district
- Letters of Introductions/Meeting Requests
 - Mention visits conducted in DC and the FCoC team members who made the visit
 - Identify Constituents who are to be part of the visit team
 - Check Scheduler in advance to focus on when the legislator will be in town
- Provide Hand outs
- Summarize meeting in the MOAA LAC



Florida Council of Chapters

Summary

- Progress has been made and further inroads have been laid
- The level of contentious behavior between the political parties and branches of government is increasing
- The 2024 election run-up will divert congress's attention away from their primary function
- State Legislative cycle is very short
- Our focus is unchanging – people matter – the only weapon system that never fails is the serving military and their families
- As Officers our obligation to represent and provide for all uniformed service members, families, veterans and survivors is a continuing responsibility



Florida Council of Chapters

Never Stop Serving

Get more details on MOAA's website

[MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://quorum.us)

[We] “*see the importance of taking care of all who are currently serving, all who have served, and the importance of honoring and matching the commitment that those who volunteer and raised their hand made,*”

MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)
From an address to members of Congress, their staffs, and
representatives from fellow veterans service organizations.



Florida Council of Chapters

Questions



THANKS