



Final Legislative Report for the 2016 Legislative Session

Report Summary: The United Veterans Committee had a very successful 2016 legislative session on bills and resolutions of interest to veterans. UVC members took positions on 47 bills and resolutions – 35 House and Senate Bills, and 12 House and Senate Resolutions. The UVC voted to Support 37 of those 47 bills and resolutions, to Oppose 2, and to Monitor 8 bills. Of the 37 Bills and Resolutions supported by the UVC, 32 were passed by the legislature. Both **items opposed by the UVC were “Postponed Indefinitely” by a committee in the House of Representatives.** So the UVC position prevailed on 34 of the 39 bills and resolutions where we took a “Support” or an “Oppose” position – for a success ratio of 87.2%.

More important than that success ratio is that this was a very positive legislative session in terms of major accomplishments on long-held UVC legislative goals. Only one of our legislative goals, to exempt military retiree income from state income taxes, failed to pass. And that bill (SB16-001) made it to the last few days of the session, and the sponsors have vowed to introduce it again in 2017.

None of our success would have been possible without the dedicated work of our Legislative and Executive Committees, the support of our members, and especially of those who came to the capitol to testify on bills during the session, or who contacted legislators to support the positions taken by the UVC.

Report Format: The report is organized in three parts: Part I contains the House and Senate Bills that have been signed into law by the Governor. The bills summarized in Part I are on pages 2-12, and include:

HB16-1061: Military Installation Transportation Needs Planning
HB16-1112: Training Vets To Train Service Dogs Pilot Program
HB16-1125: Aligning Definition Of Veteran With Federal Law
HB16-1129: Charitable Fraud Enhanced Enforcement Measures
HB16-1161: Allocate Senior Property Tax Exemption Money
HB16-1194: Income Tax Deduction For Leasing Out Ag Asset
HB16-1197: Military Veteran Occupational Credentials
HB16-1267: Colorado Veterans' Service-To-Career Pilot Program
HB16-1290: Extend Transitional Jobs Program
HB16-1349: Continue Military Family Relief Fund Tax Check-off

HB16-1397: Completion Fitzsimons Veterans Community Living
HB16-1405: 2016-17 Long Appropriation Bill
HB16-1408: Cash Fund Allocations For Health-related Programs
HB16-1411: Fort Lyon Residential Community Study
HB16-1426: Intentional Misrepresentation Assistance Animal
HB16-1444: Definition Qualifying Disabled Veteran Prop Tax
HB16-1456: Sale Of State Land For Fort Logan Nat'l Cemetery
SB16-134: Professional Licensing For Military Veterans
SB16-147: Suicide Prevention Through Zero Suicide Model
SB16-195: Veterans Centers Annual Approp From Central Fund

Part II contains the House and Senate Bills that were either “Postponed Indefinitely” by a committee, or “Lost” on a second or third reading on the floor of the House or Senate. The bills in Part II are on pages 12-18, and include:

HB16-1134: Service-disabled Veteran-owned Bus In Procurement
HB16-1179: Concealed Carry For Military Personnel
HB16-1206: Allow Service Members Keep Location Info Private
HB16-1308: Fraudulent Misrepresentation Of A Service Animal
HB16-1318: Charitable Solicitations Regulation
HB16-1351: Land Transfers For Veterans Housing
HB16-1364: Military Special & Standard License Plate Exchange
HB16-1372: Colorado Work Opportunity Income Tax Credit
HB16-1388: Employer Hiring Criminal History Employee
HB16-1420: CO Healthcare Affordability & Sustainability Enter
HB16-1466: Promoting Affordable Housing
HCR16-1003: Sports Venue Nonprofit Entity Raffles
SB16-001: Unlimited Mil Retirement Benefit Tax Deduction
SB16-144: CCW Permits For Military Personnel
SB16-148: Require Civics Test Before Graduate High School

Part III contains House and Senate Resolutions on pages 18-20.

If you have any questions or comments on the report, please contact me at 303-906-3340, or bill @billhanna.com. Bill Hanna, UVC Legislative Liaison

Part I – House and Senate Bills that have become Law

- HB16-1061 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT THE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN.
Sponsors: CARVER & NORDBERG / TODD

The bill requires the comprehensive statewide transportation plan prepared by the department of transportation to include an emphasis on coordination with federal military installations in the state to identify the transportation infrastructure needs of the installations and ensure that those needs are given full consideration during the formation of the plan.

Status - 03/31/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1112 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE TRAINING VETERANS TO TRAIN THEIR OWN SERVICE DOGS PILOT PROGRAM.
Sponsors: LANDGRAF / CROWDER

The bill creates the training veterans to train their own service dogs pilot program and pilot program fund. The purpose of the program is to identify a group of eligible veterans who have been referred by a qualified mental health professional, to participate in the program, to pair with dogs. The participants will foster, train, and ultimately utilize the dog he or she has been paired with as a service or companion animal. The program will further offer those veterans who graduate from the program the opportunity and necessary follow-along services to expand the program through identifying, fostering, and training a subsequent dog for another eligible veteran. The executive director of the department of human services shall establish and post criteria for the program.

Status - 06/10/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1125 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING CREATING A COLORADO STATUTORY REFERENCE TO CONFORM WITH THE FEDERAL DEFINITION OF "VETERAN".
Sponsors: ROUPE / BAUMGARDNER

The bill was initiated by **the UVC to create a consistent definition of "veteran"** within Colorado statutes, and specifies that the definition conform with the federal definition of "veteran".

Status - 03/22/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1129 UVC Position: Monitor

CONCERNING MEASURES FOR ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT AGAINST ACTS OF CHARITABLE FRAUD.
Sponsors: LAWRENCE & McCANN / CROWDER & HEATH

The bill creates enhanced penalties under the "Colorado Consumer Protection Act" for committing acts of charitable fraud involving knowledge or intent under the "Colorado Charitable Solicitations Act". The bill requires:

* A statement on applications for registration by a paid solicitor that neither the paid solicitor nor any officer, director or employee serves on the board of directors of a charitable organization or directs the operations of a charitable organization for which the paid solicitor solicits contributions and that no officer, director, or employee of the paid solicitor's charitable organization clients have a financial interest in the paid solicitor;

* Paid solicitors to either have a bond or a savings account, deposit, or certificate of deposit payable to the state of Colorado conditioned upon the performance in good faith without fraud or fraudulent representation and without the violation of any provision of the "Colorado Charitable Solicitations Act". The bill makes it charitable fraud to misrepresent that a charitable organization has a significant membership of a certain type, such as active police, sheriff, patrol, firefighters, first responders, or veterans.

Status - 06/08/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1161 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF CERTAIN MONEY THAT EXCEEDS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ALL WARRANTS ISSUED BY THE STATE TREASURER TO REIMBURSE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES FOR PROPERTY TAX REVENUES LOST AS A RESULT OF THE APPLICATION OF A CERTAIN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.

Sponsors: YOUNG / LAMBERT

This was a bill by the Joint Budget Committee that specifies that any excess appropriations from the total estimate specified in the annual general appropriation act for the costs of providing property tax exemptions to qualifying seniors and disabled veterans be transferred in the following percentages:

* 95% to the senior services account within the older Coloradans cash fund; and

* 5% to the veterans assistance grant program cash fund.

Status - 03/22/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1194 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING A TEMPORARY INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR A PORTION OF LEASE PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY A QUALIFIED TAXPAYER FOR LEASING THE TAXPAYER'S AGRICULTURAL ASSET TO AN ELIGIBLE BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.

Sponsors: MITSCH BUSH / SONNENBERG

The bill allows an income tax deduction if a qualified taxpayer enters into a qualified lease with an eligible beginning farmer or rancher, in an amount that is equal to 20% of the lease payments received from the eligible beginning farmer or rancher, not to exceed a specified amount per income tax year, for a maximum of 3 income tax years. The bill was supported by the UVC because of its potential for assisting veterans to move into the field of agriculture.

Status - 06/08/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1197 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT STATE AGENCIES IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO STREAMLINE THE GRANTING OF OCCUPATIONAL CREDENTIALS TO VETERANS BASED ON MILITARY TRAINING.

Sponsors: CARVER & MELTON / TODD & CROWDER

The bill implements a UVC goal that credit be provided to veterans for military training and experience when applying for professional licensing or certification. Specifically, each agency must:

- * Evaluate the extent to which military training meets state requirements;
- * Identify reciprocity mechanisms with other states;
- * Determine if an occupational exam is available to authorize a veteran to practice an occupation;
- * Document the results and publish a summary of pathways available to a veteran to obtain authorization to practice an occupation;
- * Identify, where appropriate, those professions or occupations whose licensing and credentials are based on passing an exam;
- * Consult with community colleges and other post-secondary educational institutions with regard to bridge programs to cover educational gaps and refresher courses for lapsed credentials; and
- * Consider adopting a national credentialing exam. Each state agency may consult with any military official, state agency, or post-secondary educational institution, and each post-secondary educational institution is obligated to cooperate. Each state agency will report progress each year, until 2023.

Status - 05/20/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1267 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE "COLORADO VETERANS' SERVICE-TO-CAREER PILOT PROGRAM", AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING A GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO AID WORK FORCE CENTERS IN SUPPORTING VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES SEEKING NEW EMPLOYMENT AND CAREERS.

Sponsors: LEE & FIELDS / WOODS & CARROLL

The bill creates the Colorado veterans' service-to-career pilot program for the purpose of enhancing work force center services that are not available under federal law. The department of labor and employment will select one or more work force centers to contract with a nonprofit agency to administer the program. Work force centers selected by the department and the nonprofit agency shall develop and expand programs to provide work force development-related services specifically tailored to the unique needs and talents of veterans, spouses, and other eligible participants. The services may include:

- * Skills training;
- * Opportunities for apprenticeship placements;
- * Opportunities for internship placements;
- * Opportunities for work placements with businesses or other organizations; and
- * Support services.

Status - 05/20/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1290 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING AN EXTENSION OF THE TRANSITIONAL JOBS PROGRAM.
Sponsors: ESGAR & KRAFT-THARP/ HEATH & HILL

This bill extends the “transitional jobs program” to June 30, 2022 from June 30, 2017. The program has had an impressive track record in assisting unemployed and low-income veterans to be hired to and retain jobs.

Status - 05/20/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1349 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING CONTINUATION OF THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND.
Sponsors: RYDEN & NORDBERG / CARROLL

This bill extends the repeal date on this program from January 1, 2017. The bill extends for 5 years the period for which the state income tax return forms include a line allowing individual taxpayers to make a voluntary contribution to the fund.

Status - 06/06/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1397 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE COMPLETION OF THE FITZSIMONS STATE VETERANS COMMUNITY LIVING CENTER TO PROVIDE A CONTINUUM OF RESIDENTIAL CARE OPTIONS.
Sponsors: RYDEN & WINDHOLZ/ HODGE & CROWDER

The bill directs the department of human services to plan, design, and develop the Fitzsimons state veterans community living center for its completion, consistent with the 1999 memorandum of agreement between the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority, the city of Aurora, and the department. The goal of the project is to provide a continuum of residential care options, including domiciliary and assisted living, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and any other residential or supportive services as may be needed or beneficial exclusively for older veterans, veterans with disabilities, homeless veterans, and qualifying family members of veterans. The bill requires the department to collaborate and seek input from interested stakeholders, including a statewide coalition of veterans organizations (i.e. the UVC). The department may lease portions of the property to another state or local governmental entity for development or operation to provide services to veterans who are homeless, veterans with disabilities, older or low-income veterans, or qualifying family members of veterans. The department is required to provide periodic updates on the Fitzsimons project in its annual report and submit quarterly progress reports to the state, veterans, and military affairs committees of the house of representatives and the senate.

Status - 06/01/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1405 UVC Position: Support Portions Affecting Veterans

CONCERNING THE PROVISION FOR PAYMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, AND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, AND OF ITS AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS, FOR AND DURING THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2016, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Sponsors: HAMNER / LAMBERT

This is the annual "long bill" which authorizes expenditures for all departments of state government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016. The UVC supported those portions that provide services to veterans in such departments as the Departments of Military and Veterans Affairs, Human Services, Labor and Employment, the Judicial Branch, and others.

Status - 05/03/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1408 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF CASH FUND REVENUES TO HEALTH-RELATED PROGRAMS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MODIFYING AND STREAMLINING THE ALLOCATION OF TOBACCO LITIGATION SETTLEMENT MONEYS BY REPLACING THE CURRENT TWO -TIER ALLOCATION SYSTEM THAT INCLUDES BOTH PERCENTAGE-BASED AND FIXED AMOUNT ALLOCATIONS OF SETTLEMENT MONEYS WITH A SINGLE

SET OF EXCLUSIVELY PERCENTAGE-BASED ALLOCATIONS AND REPLACING SETTLEMENT MONEYS FUNDING FOR SPECIFIED PROGRAMS WITH MARIJUANA TAX CASH FUND FUNDING; ALLOCATING ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENT MONEYS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER FOR CANCER RESEARCH ONLY; TRANSFERRING A SPECIFIED AMOUNT FROM THE CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH PLAN TRUST TO A NEWLY CREATED ACCOUNTABLE CARE COLLABORATIVE FUND ON JULY 1, 2016; AND MAKING AND REDUCING APPROPRIATIONS.

Sponsors: RANKIN / STEADMAN

This JBC-sponsored bill covers a number of programs. The interest of the UVC was in the section that addressed the Veterans Trust Fund in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The bill continues the 1% allocation of revenues from the tobacco litigation settlement for the Trust Fund, and assures that all unexpended funds at the end of a fiscal year remain in the Fund.

Status - 05/04/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1411 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM OPERATED AT THE FORT LYON PROPERTY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING A LONGITUDINAL EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM; REPEALING THE PROGRAM ON JULY 1, 2019; AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Sponsors: RANKIN / STEADMAN

This JBC-sponsored bill creates a longitudinal evaluation of the supportive residential community for individuals who are homeless at Fort Lyon that was enacted in 2013. The state auditor, with the concurrence of the division of housing in the department of local affairs, is required to contract with an independent, 3rd party to conduct the study. The final report is due by August 1, 2018, and the contractor will also prepare a preliminary report.

Status - 05/04/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1426 UVC Position: Monitor

CONCERNING INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO AN ASSISTANCE ANIMAL.

Sponsors: PRIMAVERA & WILLETT / TATE & JAHN

This bill largely replaced **HB16-1308 that had been Pl'd earlier in the House.** The bill specifies that federal law requires that reasonable accommodations be provided under some circumstances to individuals with a disability, and

recognizes that an "assistance animal", sometimes referred to as an "emotional support animal", can assist individuals with a disability with their condition but is not necessarily trained to provide a specific task as "service animals" are. The bill requires designated medical professionals, when approached by a patient seeking an assistance animal, to make a written finding regarding whether the patient has a disability and whether the need for the animal is related to that disability, or that there is insufficient evidence to make a disability determination.

Status - 06/10/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1444 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF A "QUALIFYING DISABLED VETERAN" AS IT RELATES TO A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SUCH INDIVIDUALS.

Sponsors: RYDEN & CARVER / KEFALAS & CROWDER

The bill aligns and corrects the statutory definition of "qualifying disabled veteran", as it relates to a property tax exemption for qualifying seniors and disabled veterans, with the language established in section 3.5 of article X of the Colorado constitution. The language in the bill matches identically the language that was passed by the voters in 2006, but had deleted eligibility for some disabled veterans when the definitional language was added to statute in 2007.

Status - 05/27/2016 Governor Signed

- HB16-1456 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE SALE OF A PORTION OF LAND AT THE COLORADO MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE AT FORT LOGAN TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR THE EXPANSION OF FORT LOGAN NATIONAL CEMETERY.

Sponsors: LONTINE / CROWDER

The bill authorizes the department of human services to execute a land sale, at fair market value, for up to 15 acres of vacant land around the Colorado mental health institute at Fort Logan to the United States department of veterans affairs for the purpose of expanding the Fort Logan national cemetery. The bill requires all sale proceeds to be credited to the central fund for veterans community living centers in the fiscal year in which the property sale takes place, and in each fiscal year thereafter, until all sale proceeds are appropriated to the central fund in such amounts so that the appropriation from the cemetery fund in each fiscal year equals the maximum amount possible that would not exceed 10% of the veterans center or group of veterans centers total annual revenues in grants from

the state and all Colorado local governments combined. The sale of vacant land at Ft. Logan to the VA will extend the life of the National Cemetery by 15 years.

Status - 06/01/2016 Governor Signed

- SB16-134 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL LICENSING FOR MILITARY VETERANS IN CERTAIN PROFESSIONS.

Sponsors: HEATH & GARCIA / DANIELSON & KAGAN

The bill requires the Colorado department of revenue to consider crediting a military veteran's training, education, and experience toward the qualifications for a commercial driver's license. The bill also requires the division of veterans affairs to make reasonable efforts to notify a discharged member of the provisions of this bill.

Status - 05/27/2016 Governor Signed

- SB16-147 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING ESTABLISHING THE COLORADO ZERO SUICIDE MODEL TO REDUCE DEATH BY SUICIDE IN THE COLORADO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

Sponsors: NEWELL & MARTINEZ HUMENIK / PETTERSEN

The bill establishes the Colorado suicide prevention model within the office of suicide prevention in the department of public health and environment. The goal and purpose of the Colorado model is to reduce suicide rates and numbers in Colorado through system-level training and strategies for health care systems, including mental and behavioral health systems; physical and mental health clinics in educational institutions; and primary care providers, including pediatricians. The Colorado model, together with the office of suicide prevention, the office of behavioral health, the department, and the department of health care policy and financing, is encouraged to promote coordination of existing data across health systems. Health care and mental and behavioral health systems and organizations throughout the state, including hospitals, state crisis services and regional health systems, community mental health centers, community health systems, health management organizations, and behavioral health organizations, including substance abuse treatment organizations, are encouraged to adopt the 7 core tenets of the national zero suicide model. The UVC supported the bill because of the high incidence of suicide among veterans, who are a targeted population under the Colorado suicide prevention program.

Status - 06/10/2016 Governor Signed

- SB16-195 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION OF MONEY IN THE CENTRAL FUND FOR VETERANS CENTERS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

Sponsors: GRANTHAM / RANKIN

Although the UVC opposed this bill as introduced by the JBC, the bill was successfully amended to provide for the **“continuing appropriation” of funds in the** central fund for operations of the community living centers, while requiring an annual appropriation of the funding used by the state department of human services for indirect and other central administrative costs.

Status - 06/06/2016 Governor Signed

Part II— House and Senate Bills that Failed to Pass

- HB16-1134 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES PREFERENCE IN STATE PROCUREMENT.
Sponsors: CARVER / TODD

This bill would have strengthened a bill passed in 2014, wherein a goal was established that the state would award at least 3% of all contracts by dollar value to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. The bill would have changed the procurement goal into a requirement over a phased-in process. Due to issues concerning how to cover the costs of increased requirements and enforcement without imposing additional fees on the small businesses, the House Sponsor asked that the bill be postponed indefinitely so more work could be done to craft a workable solution.

Status - 03/10/2016 House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor Postpone Indefinitely

- HB16-1179 UVC Position: Monitor

CONCERNING THE POSSESSION OF CONCEALED HANDGUNS BY ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL.
Sponsors: BUCK / SONNENBERG

This bill would have created an exemption to the crime of unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon when:

- * The person is on active duty and serving in the armed forces of the United States military; and
- * The weapon in question is a concealed handgun.

Status - 03/07/2016 House Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
Postpone Indefinitely

- HB16-1206 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE ABILITY OF PERSONS WITH CERTAIN CONNECTIONS TO POST-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, MILITARY SERVICE TO MAKE THEIR CURRENT LOCATION INFORMATION EXEMPT FROM ELECTRONIC DISCLOSURE UNDER THE "COLORADO OPEN RECORDS ACT".
Sponsors: NORDBERG

The bill would have allowed persons who served in the military since Sept. 11, 2001, and their family members, to make their current location information exempt from electronic disclosure under the "Colorado Open Records Act".

Status – 03/15/2016 House Committee on State, Veterans and Military Affairs
Postpone Indefinitely at the request of the sponsor.

- HB16-1308 UVC Position: Monitor

CONCERNING THE OFFENSE OF FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION OF A SERVICE ANIMAL.
Sponsors: KAGAN / NEWELL

The bill would have created a criminal offense of fraudulent misrepresentation of a service animal. The offense would have applied to a person who intentionally fraudulently misrepresented an animal in his or her possession as a service animal for the purpose of obtaining the rights and privileges granted by law to persons with disabilities with service animals. While the bill died in a House Committee, it was largely replaced by the successful HB16-1426.

Status - 04/11/2016 Senate Committee on Judiciary Postpone Indefinitely

- HB16-1318 UVC Position: Monitor

CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MODIFYING AND CLARIFYING FILING REQUIREMENTS AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE "COLORADO CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS ACT".
Sponsors: WIST / NEWELL

The bill would have clarified that a charitable organization's registration with the secretary of state must be renewed on an annual basis if the charitable organization intends to solicit in Colorado. Among other provisions, the bill would

have allowed the secretary of state to issue a cease-and-desist order to enforce provisions of law prohibiting soliciting contributions, acting as a paid solicitor, or acting as a professional fundraiser without registering with the secretary of state.

Status - 04/27/2016 Senate Committee on Appropriations Postpone Indefinitely

- HB16-1351 UVC Position: Monitor

CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES CONVEY REAL PROPERTY AT THE FITZSIMONS CAMPUS TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS AND VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES BY DEVELOPING TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR BOTH GROUPS OF SUCH VETERANS AND HOUSING WITH DOMICILIARY CARE FOR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES.
Sponsors: WINDHOLZ / CROWDER

The bill would have directed the executive director of the department of human services to convey 2 parcels of land of not more than 1.5 acres each on the Fitzsimons campus to the housing authority of the city of Aurora (AHA) subject to the condition that the AHA develop transitional housing, including short-, medium-, and long-term temporary housing provided to a veteran with a disability in combination with wraparound services in order to assist the veteran in developing stability in his or her life, for homeless veterans and veterans with disabilities on one parcel and housing with domiciliary care for veterans with disabilities and their spouses and legal dependents on the other parcel.

Although this bill was directed at one of the UVC's legislative goals for completion of housing options at Fitzsimons, the UVC instead supported HB16-1397 as the more appropriate approach since it retained ownership and accountability of the land and housing facilities by the state of Colorado.

Status - 03/28/2016 House Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Postpone Indefinitely

- HB16-1364 UVC Position: Monitor

CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF A STANDARD LICENSE PLATE FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE TO A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN ISSUED A MILITARY LICENSE PLATE.
Sponsors: RYDEN & BROWN / COOKE

The bill allows a person who has a special license plate for veterans to exchange it for a standard number plate without charge.

Status - 04/26/2016 Senate Committee on Finance Postpone Indefinitely

- HB16-1372 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE COLORADO WORK OPPORTUNITY INCOME TAX CREDIT.

Sponsors: PRIMAVERA

The bill would have created the Colorado work opportunity income tax credit to provide an additional state-level income tax credit to a private-sector business that hires individuals who are members of a targeted group and employs them in Colorado, if such private-sector business is eligible for the federal work opportunity tax credit. The UVC supported the bill since veterans with disabilities were one of the targeted groups of individuals for such jobs.

Status - 04/20/2016 House Committee on Finance Postpone Indefinitely

- HB16-1388 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE TIMING OF INQUIRING INTO A JOB APPLICANT'S CRIMINAL HISTORY.

Sponsors: MCCANN / MERRIFIELD & GUZMAN

The bill, **generally known as the “ban the box” bill, would have** prohibited an employer from:

- * Advertising that a person with a criminal history may not apply for a position;
- * Placing a statement in an employment application that a person with a criminal history may not apply for a position; or
- * Making an inquiry about a candidate's arrests or criminal convictions until the candidate has been offered an interview or a conditional offer of employment. An employer is exempt from these restrictions when:
 - * The law forbids a person from being employed on account of a criminal conviction or requires an employer to consider a candidate's criminal history for the job;
 - * The employer is participating in a program to encourage employment of people with criminal histories; or
 - * The job requires a fidelity bond and the criminal history would disqualify the candidate. An employer must keep applications for 9 months. The department of labor and employment will enforce the section with civil penalties. A violation of the restrictions does not create a private cause of action. The UVC supported the bill because of its potential positive effect of assisting veterans who are seeking to turn their lives in a more positive direction through employment.

Status - 05/04/2016 Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Postpone Indefinitely

- HB16-1420 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN ENTERPRISE THAT IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION AND RELATED STATUTORY PROVISIONS TO ADMINISTER A FEE-BASED HEALTHCARE AFFORDABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM FOR HOSPITALS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Sponsors: HULLINGHORST / CROWDER

The bill, **generally known as the “hospital provider fee enterprise” bill**, would have created the Colorado healthcare affordability and sustainability enterprise as a type 2 agency and government-owned business within the department of health care policy and financing (HCPF) for the purpose of participating in the implementation and administration of a state Colorado healthcare affordability and sustainability program (program) on and after July 1, 2016. It would have created a board appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate to govern the enterprise. The UVC, along with an extensive list of public and private organizations from across the state, supported the bill because it would have freed up over a half billion in state general fund to support critical needs in education, transportation, health care, and other priorities – without an increase in taxes.

Status - 05/10/2016 Senate Committee on Finance Postpone Indefinitely

- HB16-1466 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE USE OF MONEYS FROM THE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TRUST FUND TO PROMOTE THE PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.
Sponsors: TYLER & K. BECKER / ULIBARRI

This bill would have required the transfer of \$40 million from the state's unclaimed property trust fund to the division of housing in the department of local affairs and to the Colorado housing and finance authority in order to improve, preserve, or expand the supply of affordable housing in Colorado, including rental assistance for persons with low and very low incomes; and to support new or existing programs that provide financial assistance to persons in households with an income of 80% or less of the area median income for the purpose of allowing such persons to finance, purchase, or rehabilitate single family residential homes as well as to provide financial assistance to any nonprofit entity and political subdivision that makes loans to persons in such households to enable such persons to finance, purchase, or rehabilitate single family residential homes. Because of the critical need for affordable housing by many veterans, the UVC supported this bill as one that would increase the supply of housing without adding new taxes.

Status - 05/09/2016 Senate Committee on Appropriations Postpone Indefinitely

- HCR16-1003 UVC Position: Oppose

CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF NONPROFIT ENTITIES LICENSED TO OPERATE A RAFFLE AT A PROFESSIONAL SPORTING EVENT AT A SPORTS ARENA.

Sponsors: SINGER & PRIOLA / SCOTT & TODD

This resolution would have referred to the voters in the 2016 election an amendment to the constitution governing raffles to allow the operation of a raffle at a sports arena under different requirements and allowances as other regulated raffles. While it did not directly reference raffles conducted by veterans organizations or other nonprofits, the UVC joined with other stakeholders in opposing the creation of a new category of raffles with different requirements.

Status – 05/03/2016 House Committee on State, Veterans & Military Affairs
Postpone Indefinitely

- SB16-001 UVC Position: Support

CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE STATE INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR MILITARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

Sponsors: CROWDER / LANDGRAF

As introduced, this bill would have eliminated current retirement income limits on the amount of military retirement income that is exempt from state income taxes, and allowed a person to claim a state income tax deduction for the entire amount.

Status - 05/05/2016 House Committee on Finance Postpone Indefinitely

- SB16-144 UVC Position: Oppose

CONCERNING ALLOWING CERTAIN MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE LESS THAN TWENTY -ONE YEARS OF AGE TO OBTAIN A PERMIT TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

Sponsors: COOKE / SIAS

Under current law, an applicant for a concealed handgun permit must be at least 21 years of age. The bill amends this requirement to state that the applicant must be either:

* 21 years of age or older; or

* 18 years of age or older and on active duty in, or honorably discharged from, any branch or reserve branch of the United States military forces, including the National Guard.

Status - 04/25/2016 House Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
Postpone Indefinitely

- SB16-148 UVC Position: Monitor

CONCERNING REQUIRING STUDENTS TO CORRECTLY ANSWER A PORTION OF THE CIVICS QUESTIONS ON THE UNITED STATES NATURALIZATION TEST AS PART OF THE EXISTING STATE REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE A COURSE ON CIVIL GOVERNMENT BEFORE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

Sponsors: HILL / MORENO & LUNDEEN

This bill would have required each student who is enrolled in ninth grade during or after the 2016-17 school year to correctly answer, before graduating from high school, at least 60 questions from the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States citizenship and immigration services. The school district, charter school, or school operated by a board of cooperative services could have allowed the student to take the test on multiple occasions while enrolled in ninth through twelfth grade and to repeat the test until the student correctly answers at least 60 questions. The bill would have allowed the superintendent or principal of a local education provider to waive the requirement for a student who meets all of the other graduation requirements and demonstrates the existence of extraordinary circumstances that justify the waiver.

Status - 04/06/2016 Senate Third Reading Lost - No Amendments

Part III – House and Senate Resolutions

- HJR16-1003

CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF MILITARY, VETERANS, AND MIA/POW APPRECIATION DAY.

Sponsors: LONTINE & ROUPE / LAMBERT & CARROLL

This is the annually adopted resolution to declare and honor the “Military and Veterans” Appreciation Day – held this year on January 29, 2016.

Status: 02/04/2016 Signed by the President of the Senate

- HJR16-1004

CONCERNING THE U.S.S. PUEBLO.

Sponsors: ESGAR & NAVARRO / CROWDER & GARCIA

This resolution remembers the 1968 attack and capture, and the continuing seizure, of the U.S.S. Pueblo by the government of North Korea.

Status: 02/02/2016 Signed by the President of the Senate

- HJR16-1005

CONCERNING THE U.S.S. COLORADO.

Sponsors: WILLIAMS & HUMPHREY / SONNENBERG & ULIBARRI

This resolution recognizes future completion and launching of the 4th Naval warship to carry the name of Colorado, and the first one that is a submarine – **one of the new “Virginia-class” submarines.**

Status: 02/02/2016 Signed by the President of the Senate

- HJR16-1006

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF A PORTION OF EAST SIXTH AVENUE **IN AURORA AS THE “COLORADO FREEDOM MEMORIAL HIGHWAY.”**

Sponsors: RYDEN & THURLOW / TODD & MARTINEZ HUMENIK

Naming a road, building, bridge, or a portion of a road is generally done through a Resolution, as this and several others noted below have done.

Status: 02/02/2016 Signed by the President of the Senate

- HJR16-1007

CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM COLORADO WHO HAVE SERVED IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, **OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, OPERATION NEW DAWN,** OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE, AND IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM AND HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED WHILE SERVING THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD.

Sponsors: MELTON & LANDGRAF / HILL & HEATH

Status: 02/02/2016 Signed by the President of the Senate

- HJR16-1025

CONCERNING HONORING GOLD STAR FAMILIES.

Sponsors: RYDEN & SAINE / MARBLE

Status: 05/13/2016 Signed by the President of the Senate

- SJR16-015

CONCERNING SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF CIVIL AIR PATROL IN COLORADO

Sponsors: LAMBERT / RYDEN

Status - 03/17/2016 Signed by the Speaker of the House

- SJR16-022

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 21, 2016 AS “COLORADO AEROSPACE DAY.”

Sponsors: BAUMGARDNER & TODD / ROSENTHAL & NORDBERG

Status - 03/30/2016 Signed by the Speaker of the House

- SJR16-032

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE OVERPASS ACROSS UNITED STATES INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 25 AS THE “BUCHANAN LIBERTY BRIDGE.”

Sponsors: MARBLE / BUCK

This resolution honored the many volunteer activities of former Marine Sergeant Thomas Buchanan who died 03/15/2016 at age 63.

Status - 05/17/2016 Signed by the Speaker of the House

- SJR16-034

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 24 FROM MILE MARKER 298 IN MANITOU SPRINGS TO MILEMARKER 283 IN WOODLAND PARK AS THE “SPC. ROB LEE MICHOLS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY.

Sponsors: LAMBERT & GRANTHAM / CARVER & LAWRENCE

This resolution honored Army SPC Nichols who was killed in action on July 23, 2013, having served two deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Status - 05/20/2016 Signed by the Speaker of the House

- SJR16-035

CONCERNING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS AND THE DESIGNATION OF A PORTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 24 FROM MILE MARKER 308 TO MILE MARKER 298 AS THE “BUFFALO SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY.”

Sponsors: LAMBERT & MERRIFIELD / CARVER & LEE

Status - 05/20/2016 Signed by the Speaker of the House

- SR16-002

CONCERNING RESTARTING THE PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE FOR UNITED STATES VIETNAM VETERANS THROUGH THE “BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT OF 2005.”

Sponsors: WOODS

Status - 03/10/2016 Signed by the President of the Senate

United Veterans Committee of Colorado, June 25, 2016