

UVC Proposed 2018 State Legislative Goals and Priorities

Prepared for the UVC Executive Committee meeting on October 31, 2017,
and the UVC General Membership meeting on November 14, 2017

The UVC Legislative Committee met on October 19, 2017 to finalize a list of recommended bills for the UVC to pursue in the 2018 legislative session, based on our 2018 state legislative goals. This document is an outline of the proposals that were approved by the Committee, including several bills held in abeyance which the Committee was unable to find a member to take the lead role on. Next, The Legislative Committee will seek approval for these items by the UVC Executive Committee on Tuesday, October 31. At this time, the Executive Committee may amend any proposal or suggest others before all approved legislative recommendations are brought to the general membership of the UVC at the next general membership meeting on November 14, 2017. At this meeting, each proposed legislative goal must be brought for a vote and approved in full by voting UVC members. For questions, contact UVC Legislative Chair, Dick Young, at dickyoung123@gmail.com.

These are the proposed 2018 state legislative goals and priorities from the October 19th meeting of the Legislative Committee. They are set forth in three categories: Financial, Veterans Quality of Life, and Resolution Proposals. Because of the relatively few Goals, we did not consider any specific priority as they all are important.

Bill Proposals: Financial Recommendations

1. To establish a state income tax exemption for up to \$20,000 in military retirement pay for military retirees up to age 55 **Lead: Shelley Kalkowski**
2. To strengthen veteran's courts, including: expansion to additional areas of the state, outreach, support for mental health and other needed services, and tracking and collecting statistical data on the courts. **Lead: Dick Young, with others**

The three following recommendations were supported in concept, but held in abeyance pending the outcome of additional research and development related to the specifics of the proposed legislation, the potential fiscal impact, etc., and the finding of a UVC Volunteer who would take the lead in doing the above tasks. Additionally, the Legislative Committee expressed concern that seeking additional tax-related proposals in the 2018 session could negatively affect the political viability of Goal #1 set forth above. A small Panel, chaired by Larry Carroll, was appointed to look further into this concern and report, when ready, its recommended findings to either the Legislative Committee, or directly to the Executive Committee

3. To provide a state tax exemption for reenlistment bonuses paid to Colorado National Guard and uniformed service members whose home of record is the state of Colorado. **Lead: Dick Wilson**
4. To exempt from state income tax the pay of uniformed service members who are stationed outside of Colorado but whose home of record is Colorado (*bill in abeyance*). **Lead: none**
5. To provide a 100% property tax exemption for veterans with a 100% disability rating (*bill in abeyance*). **Lead: Bernard Humbles**

Bill Proposals: Veterans Quality of Life Recommendations

6. To establish a Colorado women veterans' office or officer in the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. **Lead: Leanne Wheeler, with others**
7. To provide legislative support to strengthen the resource and information clearinghouse created in 2009 by HB09-1209. **Lead: Dick Young, with others**

8. To support efforts, where appropriate, to improve the quality of care of veterans in our Veterans Community Living Centers including allowing nursing employees to be exempted from specified limitations under the state civil service requirements. **Lead: Gary Force**

Resolution Proposals

9. A resolution by the Colorado General Assembly to honor Cold War veterans. **Lead: Ralph Charliff**
10. A resolution by the Colorado General Assembly to strengthen prevention efforts for veteran suicide in Colorado. **Lead: Tom Sullivan, with others**

Respectfully submitted on October 29 to the UVC Executive Committee,

By Richard E. Young, UVC Legislative Chair