

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

February 2026

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

NATIONAL PRIORITY GOALS:

Budget – To fully Fund relevant programs for veterans, service members, and their families.

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs – To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits.

Education, Employment and Transition Assistance – To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service.

Health Care – To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares.

Military Readiness – To maintain a strong and ready all-volunteer force capable of protecting American interests.

National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA – To fully support the all-volunteer force, protect our nation's citizens and defend American interests around the world.

Please contact South Dakota Senators John Thune, Mike Rounds and Rep Dusty Johnson with any questions or concerns you may have.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA PRIORITY GOALS: (Submitted as of this date)

HB 1037 – Act to exempt active-duty members of armed force and veterans from paying resident fishing license fee.

SB 12 – Act to refund property taxes for qualifying veterans and surviving spouses.

SB 35 – Act to revise process for requesting veterans DD 214 from County Register of Deeds.

Contact your local Senators and Representatives concerning State issues.

Updates will be available on VFW Action Corps and sdlegislature.gov for State Bills. Please review current and future Bills that may be submitted.

Respectively Submitted,

Becky Hafner

605-661-4484 /// tbmhafner@santel.net