

# National Legislative Division Weekly

## CONGRESS

President Biden will present his State of the Union (SOTU) address to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday. The Administration is reportedly aiming for a March 9 release of its FY24 budget request.

Before adjourning for the weekend on Thursday, the Senate passed a resolution designating February 1, 2023, as “Blue Star Mother’s Day.” They also passed resolutions finalizing committee memberships, setting the stage for hearings and other committee work to begin next week.

## HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE (HASC)

The committee’s organizational meeting Thursday morning was marked by strong bipartisanship. “It’s not that we don’t disagree; it’s that we understand we do have to get work done,” said ranking member Rep. Smith (D-WA).

Smith and committee chair Rep. Rogers (R-AL) strongly agree that ensuring the Pentagon is spending money efficiently and effectively is more important than setting a specific dollar target for its annual budget.

Recruitment, retention, and military quality of life will be a key focus in the coming year. Smith highlighted this in his comments during the meeting. Rogers has announced creation of a new panel focused on quality of life issues, although its members have not yet been made public.

HASC’s first hearings will occur next week, focused on China and support to Ukraine, with an emphasis upon ensuring sufficient oversight on what the US is sending to that country.

The committee roster can be found below:

Subcommittee chairs:

### Tactical Air and Land Forces

**Chair:** Rep. Wittman (R-VA)

**Ranking Member:** Rep. Norcross (D-NJ)

### Strategic Forces

**Chair:** Rep. Lamborn (R-CO)

**Ranking Member:** Rep. Moulton (D-MA)

### Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces

**Chair:** Rep. Kelly (R-MS)

**Ranking Member:** Rep. Courtney (D-CT)

### Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems

**Chair:** Rep. Gallagher (R-WI)

**Ranking Member:** Rep. Khanna (D-CA)

### Military Personnel (MilPers)

**Chair:** Rep. Banks (R-IN)

**Ranking Member:** Rep. Kim (D-NJ)

### Intelligence and Special Operations

**Chair:** Rep. Bergman (R-MI)

**Ranking Member:** Rep. Gallego (D-AZ)

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## Readiness

**Chair:** Rep. Waltz (R-FL)

**Ranking Member:** Rep. Garamendi (D-CA)

New panel on military quality of life

**Chairman:** Rep. Bacon (R-NE)

Republicans	Democrats
Rep. Wilson (R-SC) (Readiness)	Rep. Courtney (D-CT)
Rep. Turner (R-OH)	Rep. Garamendi (D-CA) (Readiness)
Rep. Lamborn (R-CO)	Rep. Norcross (D-NJ)
Rep. Wittman (R-VA)	Rep. Gallego (D-AZ) (veteran)
Rep. Scott (R-GA) (Readiness)	Rep. Moulton (D-MA) (veteran)
Rep. Graves (R-MO)	Rep. Carbajal (D-CA)
Rep. Stefanik (R-NY) (MilPers)	Rep. Khanna (D-CA)
Rep. DesJarlais (R-TN)	Rep. Keating (D-MA)
Rep. Kelly (R-MS) (veteran)	Rep. Kim (D-NJ) (MilPers)
Rep. Gallagher (R-WI) (veteran)	Rep. Houlahan (D-PA) (veteran) (MilPers)
Rep. Gaetz (R-FL) (MilPers)	Rep. Crow (D-CO) (veteran) (Readiness)
Rep. Bacon (R-NE) (veteran)	Rep. Slotkin (D-MI)
Rep. Banks (R-IN) (veteran) (MilPers)	Rep. Sherrill (D-NJ) (veteran) (Readiness)
Rep. Bergman (R-MI) (veteran) (MilPers)	Rep. Escobar (D-TX) (MilPers) (Readiness)
Rep. Waltz (R-FL) (veteran) (MilPers) (Readiness)	Rep. Golden (D-ME) (veteran)
Rep. Johnson (R-LA) (Readiness)	Rep. Jacobs (D-CA)
Rep. McClain (R-MI)	Rep. Strickland (D-WA) (MilPers) (Readiness)
Rep. Jackson (R-TX) (veteran)	Rep. Ryan (D-NY) (new) (veteran)
Rep. Gimenez (R-FL) (new) (Readiness)	Rep. Jackson (D-NC) (new)
Rep. Mace (R-SC) (new)	Rep. Vasquez (D-NM) (new) (Readiness)
Rep. Finstad (R-MN) (new) (MilPers) (Readiness)	Rep. Deluzio (D-PA) (new) (veteran)
Rep. Strong (R-AL) (new) (Readiness)	Rep. Tokuda (D-HI) (new) (Readiness)
Rep. Luttrell (R-TX) (new) (veteran)	Rep. Davis (D-NC) (new) (veteran) (MilPers) (Readiness)
Rep. Kiggans (R-VA) (new) (veteran) (Readiness)	Rep. Horsford (D-NV) (MilPers)
Rep. LaLota (R-NY) (new) (veteran)	Rep. Panetta (D-CA)
Rep. Moylan (R-Guam) (new) (veteran) (MilPers) (Readiness)	Rep. Sewell (D-AL) (new) (MilPers)
Rep. Alford (R-MO) (new) (MilPers)	
Rep. Mills (R-FL) (new) (veteran) (MilPers)	
Rep. McCormick (R-GA) (new) (veteran)	

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## THE HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ROSTER

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) released its roster today. Chairman Bost (R-IL) and Ranking Member Takano (D-CA) will lead the committee. We are still waiting to hear who the subcommittee ranking members will be. The roster can be found below:

### *Subcommittee chairs*

**Health Subcommittee:** Rep. Miller-Meeks (R-IA)

**Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs Subcommittee:** Rep. Luttrell (R-TX)

**Economic Opportunity Subcommittee:** Rep. Van Orden (R-WI)

**Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee:** Rep. Kiggans (R-VA)

**Technology Modernization Subcommittee:** Rep. Rosendale (R-MT)

### **Membership:**

<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Democrats</b>
Rep. Coleman Radewagen (R-AmSamoa)	Rep. Brownley (D-CA)
Rep. Bergman (R-MI) (veteran)	Rep. Levin (D-CA)
Rep. Mace (R-SC)	Rep. Pappas (D-NH)
Rep. Rosendale (R-MT)	Rep. Mrvan (D-IN)
Rep. Miller-Meeks (R-IA) (veteran)	Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick (D-FL)
Rep. Murphy (R-NC) (new)	Rep. Ramirez (D-IL) (new)
Rep. Franklin (R-FL) (new) (veteran)	Rep. Deluzio (D-PA) (new) (veteran)
Rep. Van Orden (R-WI) (new) (veteran)	Rep. McGarvey (D-KY) (new)
Rep. Luttrell (R-TX) (new) (veteran)	Rep. Landsman (D-OH) (new)
Rep. Cioscomani (R-AZ) (new)	Rep. Budzinski (D-IL) (new)
Rep. Crane (R-AZ) (new) (veteran)	
Rep. Self (R-TX) (new) (veteran)	
Rep. Kiggans (R-VA) (new) (veteran)	

## National Legislative Division Weekly

### END OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY (PHE)

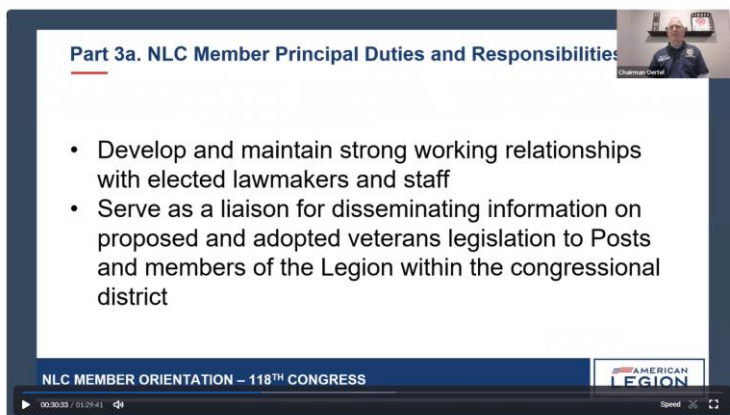
The PHE will end May 11, according to a White House announcement this week. This gives Medicare and state Medicaid officials a date certain for when pandemic era flexibilities and authorities will end in their programs. States have already been planning on how to “unwind” Medicaid continuous eligibility requirements, according to the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC).

VA Secretary McDonough is already speaking with Congress about extending PHE flexibilities that allow providers to prescribe controlled substances and other medications across state lines using telehealth. On Tuesday, McDonough told reporters the VA “badly” needs Congress to extend those authorities to ensure veterans continue to receive access to these medications. About 47,000 veterans receive medications prescribed by physicians using telehealth under the PHE authorities. McDonough said VA physicians are “really anxious” about what will happen to their patients without Congressional action.

Congress has already extended some telehealth flexibilities and reimbursement under Medicare for another two years, to allow researchers and policy makers time to collect data to inform the next steps. Telehealth has proven very popular among many patients over the past two years, because it eliminates the need to take the time and effort to go to a physician’s office. A study published in JAMA Network Open this week found that the use of telehealth did not appear to change clinical outcomes for opioid use disorder (OUD) patients. The study concluded that telehealth did not either increase access to care or improve the quality of OUD treatment. Other studies on the use of telehealth, however, have found improved measures of patient engagement, especially for mental health care.

The Administration’s announcement Monday night came as House Republicans started the process of bringing legislation to the floor to not only end the PHE but also force federal employees to return to their offices (rather than telework) and to eliminate all COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

### NLC ORIENTATION



*Chairman Oertel leads the NLC Orientation on Tuesday, January 31.*

On Tuesday, January 31, the Chairman of the National Legislative Council, Rick Oertel, conducted an orientation for the National Legislative Council (NLC). During the orientation, the Chairman and staff went over the responsibilities of NLC members and how to build relationships with your lawmaker. A link to the PowerPoint presentation can be found [here](#). A link to a recording of the meeting can be found [here](#).

# National Legislative Division Weekly

## 2023 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

The American Legion's Washington Conference will be back in person in 2023. This event allows our organization's leadership to meet with elected officials to discuss legislative initiatives and priorities important to Legion members and their families. It also provides a forum that allows Legionnaires to hear from senators, representatives, and officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as they address our members at the conference.

To learn more information, please click [here](#).

## LEGIONNAIRE OF THE WEEK

In an effort to recognize the weekly accomplishments of our Legionnaires, we will spotlight an individual every week. These individuals demonstrate exceptional grassroots activism by meeting with/contacting their Congressional Representative/Senator to advocate for veterans. Efforts like these truly make a difference and give veterans a voice in Congress.

### Phillip Kiley, Connecticut

This week, we are excited to recognize Philip Kiley from the Department of Connecticut for meeting with the office of Rep. Courtney (D-VA). Mr. Kiley introduced himself as a member of the National Legislative Council (NLC) and discussed an upcoming veterans advisory meeting, which will take place in the district.

Thank you, Mr. Kiley!

If you have made a grassroots effort and would like to be considered for next week's "Legionnaire of the Week," please fill out the Congressional Contact Report Form [here](#). You can also email me at [kisaacson@legion.org](mailto:kisaacson@legion.org).

## UPCOMING HEARINGS

- On Wednesday, March 8, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) will hold an organizational meeting to introduced new Members, consider and adopt the Rules of the Committee, and report and approve Subcommittee Chairs, Ranking Members, and assignments.