

NURSES' NOTES
July 2017



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MOAA UNIFORMED SERVICES NURSE
ADVOCATES VIRTUAL CHAPTER
"NURSES' NOTES"

"Nurses' Notes" E-Newsletter is published by the non-partisan MOAA Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

This E-Newsletter contains a wealth of information from various websites, or in descriptive paragraphs, below, which are hyperlinked. Click on any underlined text to open.

MOAA (VC01) VIRTUAL CHAPTER

The MOAA Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter is the first Virtual Chapter approved by MOAA and focuses on advocacy of Health Care issues. NEVER STOP SERVING! Check us out at our [Facebook Group Page](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Our next Chapter tele-web conference will be held 19 July 2017 at 2000 hours (Eastern). **Facilitated Discussion:** Home Town-Local Advocacy with COL-R Jeri Graham.

1. Date and Time **07/19/2017 8:00 PM** US/Eastern
Dial In to the Conference (United States):**1-(605)-472-5814**
Access Code: **232-229-253**

NOTICE: NEW DIAL IN NUMBER (Effective 12 July 2017)

2. Join Online Meeting:

Online Meeting Link: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/232-229-253>

Major VA Reform Legislation Signed into Law:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act becomes law. For too long, we have seen scandal after scandal come out of the VA. Finally, with this legislation now signed into law, we are turning to a new chapter. The bill puts in place meaningful reforms to ensure VA employees are fulfilling their duty to serve Veterans.

If a VA employee is involved in misconduct, they should be demoted, suspended, or fired. Certainly not promoted or given a bonus. If a VA employee sees misconduct and wants to report it, they should not fear retaliation. This legislation is common-sense, and strongly bipartisan. It passed the House by a vote of 368-55, and it was unanimously approved by Senate. Click [Here](#) for more information on the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act.

Reiterating the Need for Alternative Treatments for Veterans:

At a key VA Subcommittee hearing on the president's budget request for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the need for alternative treatments for Veterans was reiterated. The VHA's Acting Undersecretary for Health, Dr. Poonam Alaigh, was asked about what the VA is currently doing to ensure Veterans have access to a range of health treatments, like service dog therapy, sports therapy, and more.

Alternative therapies mean our Veterans are empowered with more options to find the care that works best for them. The VA is examining evidence-based alternative therapies as a holistic approach to treating Veterans, particularly those dealing with severe pain and opioid addiction. Our Veterans deserve more than a one-size-fits-all approach to their health care and we can make alternative therapies more accessible. Click [Here](#) for more information on the hearing.

Protecting Doctors and Patients with Medical Liability Reform:

Last week, the House passed legislation to help make health care more affordable and accessible for all Americans. The Protecting Access to Care Act (H.R. 1215) reforms medical liability laws to reduce costly practices that cause prices to skyrocket across the board. Patients are paying more for doctor's visits, and many good doctors are leaving the field, because of the constant threat of overly-aggressive litigation. The bill reins in frivolous lawsuits against doctors, while ensuring injured patients are able to recover unlimited economic damages. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this bill would save \$50 billion in federal taxpayer dollars. For further information on this bill click [Here](#)

House Panel Pluses Up Defense Policy Bill But Squeeze is Coming: by Tom Philpott .

The House Armed Services Committee cleared a \$696.5 billion fiscal 2018 defense authorization bill early Thursday, but supporters warn it will be sliced back if the 2010 Budget Control Act (BCA) isn't repealed or if Congress lets bitter partisanship continue to produce late and unstable budgets for the military. Here is a [LINK](#) to the full article.

MOAA National

Persons interested in learning more about the national organization of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) can follow this link: www.moaa.org.

Find your State Legislators and State Issues: [Click Here](#)

[BENEFIT INFORMATION](#) | [MEMBERSHIP MATTERS](#)

The *Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)* is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.



The [Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter](#) is an affiliate of MOAA and is dedicated to the goals of MOAA. It serves as a virtual advocate on health care issues throughout the United States.

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8670 Ashbury Drive
34667 Hudson, FL 34667

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