

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Stance on Abortion and Contraception

<https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service/congressional-testimony/2020/6/veterans-access-to-reproductive-healthcare>

In 2020, the Veterans of Foreign Wars made a statement to the Department of Veterans Affairs asking for better access to “reproductive healthcare” for veterans, and this includes abortion. Here is an excerpt of the statement below:

A woman veteran’s health and quality of life outcome should be the priority, **which may include the termination of a pregnancy under extreme circumstances of rape, incest, or risk to the mother’s life.** Under the Hyde Amendment, federal funds may be used to pay for an abortion to save the woman's life, or if the pregnancy arises from rape or incest. TRICARE covers these services under these circumstances and includes mental health services related to these procedures. Women veterans deserve to have the same health care procedure coverage as when they served on active duty. It is challenging to ask VA health care professionals to provide only counseling and resources on termination of pregnancy under specific circumstance, which is a service they currently do not offer at VA facilities – but which VA does offer to certain dependents through CHAMPVA.

<https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/women-veterans>

VFA advocates for women veterans to have access to contraceptives without a copay. This is described below:

Women veterans who use VA health care for family planning services are also concerned that VA requires copayments for preventative prescription drugs, such as contraceptives. This is counter to industry standards for private health insurance plans, which do not require out-of-pocket costs for preventative care prescriptions. The VFW has urged Congress to align VA’s cost share requirements with industry standards.

<https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/news/press-releases/duckworth-hirono-underwood-introduce-bill-to-expand-access-to-contraceptive-care-for-veterans>

In 2021, the VFA and three other organizations supported legislation to expand “contraceptive care” for veterans.

Stance on LGBTQ+ Lifestyle

<https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2022/6/vfw-salutes-lgbtq-military-service-to-the-nation>

While thanking service members of the military for their sacrifices and service, the VFW directed the statement specifically to veterans and active service members and their families who identify with the LGBTQ+ lifestyle. They state the following: “The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) stands with our fellow Americans in recognizing and honoring lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) veterans, service members and military families for Pride Month.”

<https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2023/6/vfw-acknowledges-pride-month>

This statement from June 2023 acknowledges and celebrates “Pride Month.”



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