



## CCD 2023 Task Force Annual Report

1. Brief Task Force Description or Mission Statement
  - a. Mission: The CCD Veterans Task Force advocates for policies and follows issues of concern to veterans with disabilities
2. Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2023
  - a. 2023 Priority One: The impact of Healthcare shortages on Veterans with Disabilities
    - i. In February of 2023, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) held a hearing “Examining Health Care Workforce Shortages: Where Do We Go from Here?” The hearing examined the causes of our nation’s current health care workforce shortages and explored various legislative solutions to learn about ways to address these challenges. The CCD Veterans Task Force responded to the HELP Committee’s request for information (RFI) issued after the hearing; our comments specifically focused on the health care workforce shortages involving direct support professionals and mental health professionals, and how such shortages impact veterans with disabilities.
  - b. 2023 Priority Two: Barriers to accessing VA supports and services
    - i. In July of 2023, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) Introduced S.2516, the Veterans Accessibility Act of 2023. This legislation addresses the physical and technological barriers faced by disabled veterans when accessing VA services and supports. The Veterans Task Force sent a letter to the respective offices issuing our support, as well as thanking both Senators for their championship behind this crucial bill.
  - c. 2023 Priority Three: Legislative and Regulatory Activity and its impact on veterans with disabilities
    - i. The task force followed several regulatory and legislative issues and measures affecting veterans with disabilities, such as the effectiveness of workforce programs offered by the Department of Labor and the Veterans Administration and bills pertaining to healthcare access.
3. Three Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2024
  - a) 2024 Priority One: Legislative and regulatory engagement

1. The task force expects to continue its engagement with legislative and regulatory issues affecting veterans with disabilities.
  - b) 2024 Priority Two: Internal and External Education
    - i. The Task Force hopes to facilitate informational programming for Veterans Task Force participants, as well as general CCD members, on issues that impact veterans with disabilities. The Task Force will also seek out opportunities to educate the broader disability community at large on such issues.
  - c) 2024 Priority Three: Access barriers to healthcare, benefits, and other related services and support
    - i. The Task Force expects to continue its focus on access barriers to healthcare, veteran’s benefits, and related services and supports eligible to veterans with disabilities.
4. 2023 Task Force Co-Chairs:

Stephanie Flynt, Public Policy Analyst, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN); [Stephanie.Flynt@ndrn.org](mailto:Stephanie.Flynt@ndrn.org)

Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, PVA; [julieh@pva.org](mailto:julieh@pva.org)

5. Task Force Meeting Day of the Month and Meeting Time (Eastern):  
The Task Force meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 A.M.