



**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY**

## **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY**

- National**
  - National Action Alerts
  - Meeting with National Representative
  - Attend VFW Legislative Conference
- State**
  - State Action Alerts
  - File witness slips on bills
  - Meeting with State Representative
- Local**
  - Meeting with local elected officials
  - Participating in County Veterans Assistance Commission

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The VFW with our coalition partners were very successful in the first session of the 103rd Illinois General assembly. This year, our grassroots lobbying efforts in Illinois has produced some key pieces of legislation.

Working with State Senator Porfirio and State Representative Kifowit, the VFW led the charge is supporting SB3479, which is Illinois version of the "Claim Shark Bill" This bill has passed both houses in the Illinois General Assembly and is awaiting the Governor's signature. This bill will protect our veterans from the unscrupulous law firms and organizations that are charging excess fees for filing initial VA disability claims.

Much of our grassroots efforts are focused on witness slips throughout the legislative process. When we send out a call for action on state legislation, we ask that you take 2 minutes to complete a witness slip. You don't have to be a VFW member to complete a witness slip. Get your family and friends to also submit witness slips on key veteran bills. The number of witness slips help to solidify our position for or against a bill.

The committee will constantly update the District legislative chair on events in Springfield and Washington. What we need from the district is that they communicate with the post on these issues and conduct training sessions to ensure that each post knows how to submit a witness slip in support of our legislative agenda. we also request that the post commanders introduce themselves to their state senator and state representative. You are the subject matter expert to assist them in veterans Legislation.

This year, we hosted the "Veterans Lobby Day" in Springfield. About 50 veterans from multiple veteran organizations went to the State Capitol and met with the Senators and Representatives to discuss veteran issues and request their support on key veteran legislation. We plan to host "Veterans Lobby Day" again in this upcoming year and have it scheduled for March 12, 2025. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us.

## ACTION CORPS

The VFW Action Corps is our national grassroots advocacy network comprised of more than 300,000 VFW members and patriotic supporters of veterans. This group stays up-to-date on the issues facing our veterans, our military and their families, standing ready to email, write, call and visit our nation's lawmakers to make their voices heard. The VFW Action Corps is free and open to all patriotic Americans who care about the military and veterans' communities.

Join the VFW Action Corps today and add your voice to the thousands of veterans' advocates making a difference every day, and if you're already a member of the VFW Action Corps, encourage your friends and neighbors to join the effort!

Participants receive:

- The VFW Action Corps Weekly, an easy-to-read electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill.
- Immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials, a congressional directory.
- Regular VFW "Action Alerts" on how to get involved when our nation's veterans, service members and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

The VFW Action Corps is what gives the VFW its strength in advocating for our nation's heroes. Working hand-in-hand with the VFW's National Legislative Service -- whose office is in eye-shot of the Capitol dome in Washington -- members of the VFW Action Corps are armed with all of the tools and information they need to help the VFW in its mission to support our nation's veterans.



### Support Today's Veterans and Military

Please contact or visit your congressional representatives and stress that these are the issues we will be fighting for in the 117th Congress. These priority goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary. To find your congressional representatives, visit [www.vfw.org/ActionCorps](http://www.vfw.org/ActionCorps).

### Play a Role in the Process

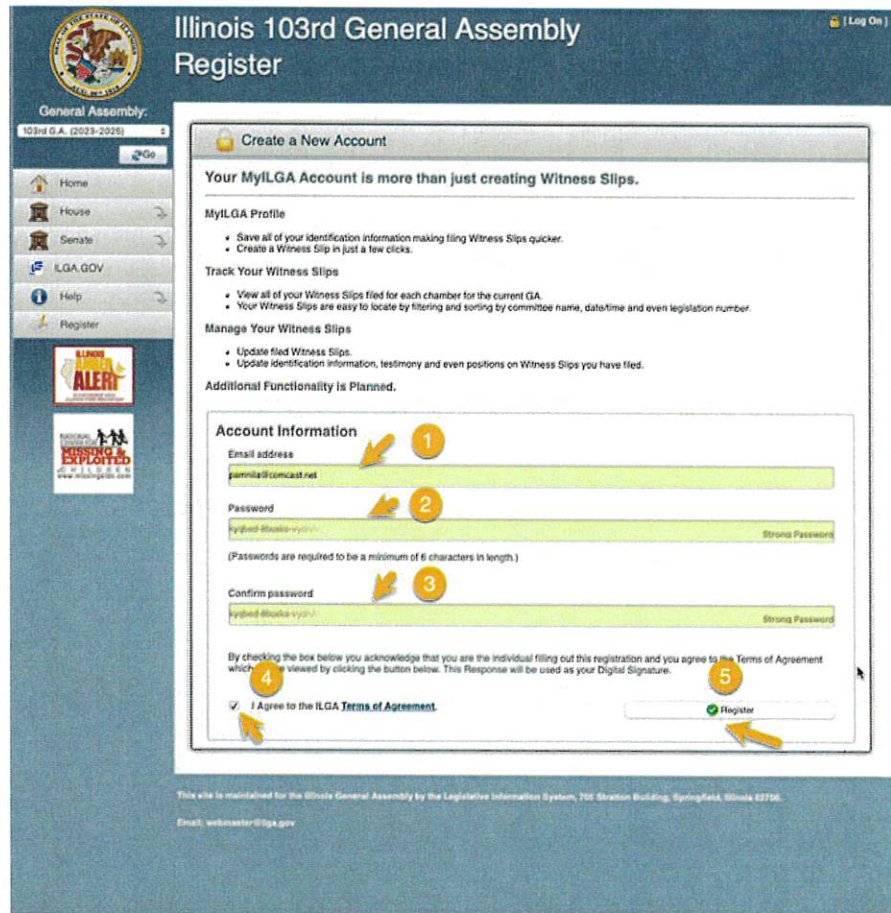
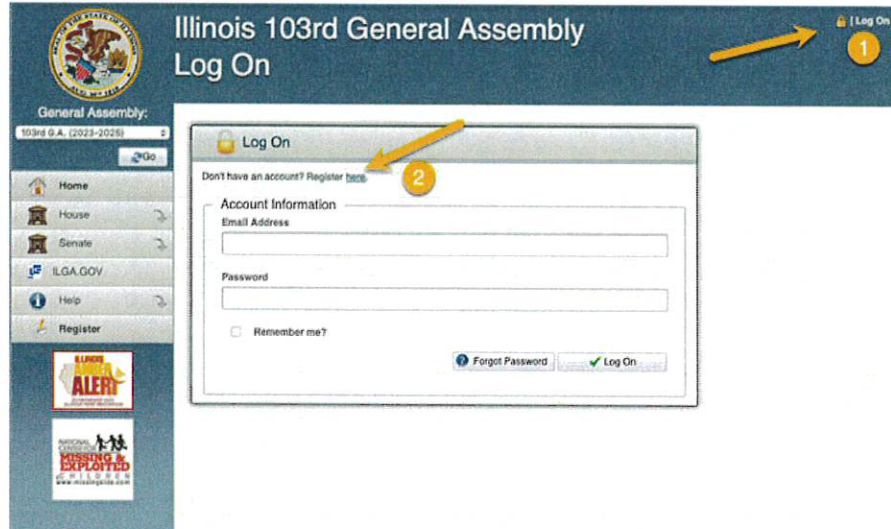
Be engaged and help us ensure that these priority goals are enacted. Sign up today for the VFW Action Corps Weekly and VFW Action Alerts:

- Visit [vfw.org/JoinActionCorps](http://vfw.org/JoinActionCorps)
- Text "VFW" to 50457
- Scan the QR Code

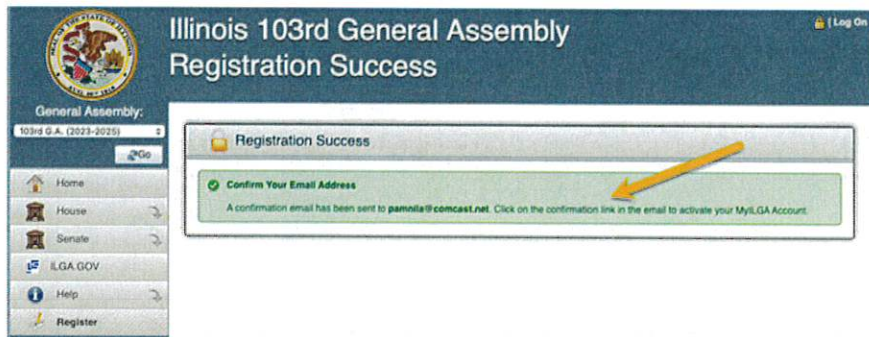


**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

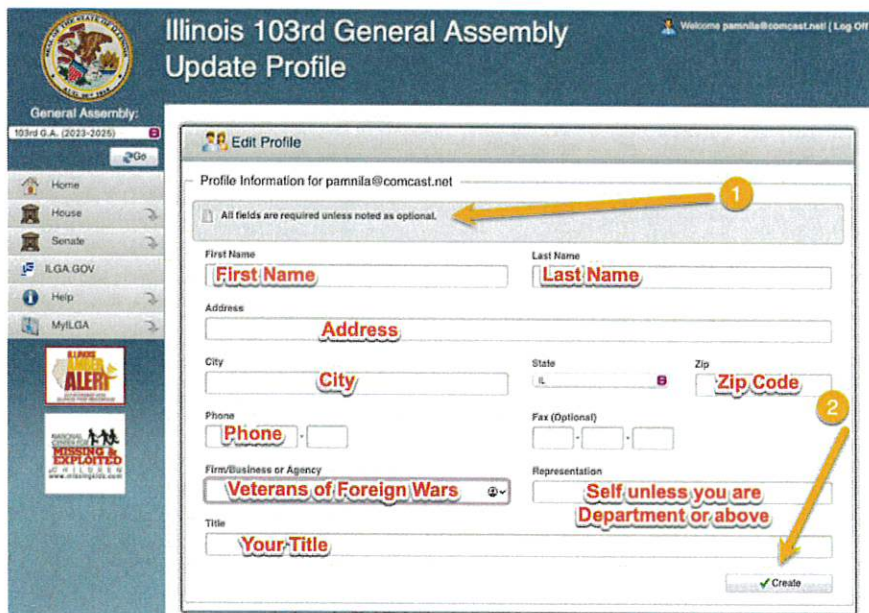
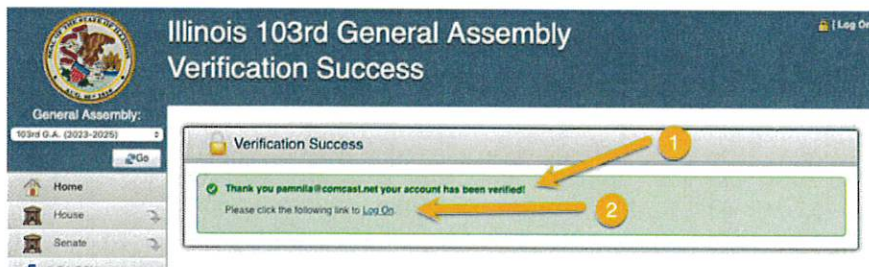
If you wish to support our legislative efforts on an ongoing basis, you may wish to create an account on my.ilga.gov. Once you create an account, Witness Slips may be completed much more quickly.







Once you click on the link in the email your account will be activated, and you will receive a notice that your account has been verified and you will be asked to LogOn.



Once you've completed your profile, you will need to locate the bills that you wish to complete Witness Slips for. The simplest way to do this is to use the link provided by the VFW Illinois Action Corps. Using this link will take you to the bills that the VFW is asking you to support.

The Department of Illinois VFW would like all Illinois supporters of Veterans to complete Witness slips before Thursday 27 April for 5 items. A witness slip takes 30 seconds to complete and lets Illinois state Senators and Representatives know what we support and what we oppose. [Links to all bills down below here](#) The 5 items are:

If you do not have access to the website or an email that directs you to the bills, the following will help you find any bills that are pending with the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

Date / Time	Committee
4/25/2023 - 1:30 PM	Public Health Capitol - 400 - Springfield, IL
4/25/2023 - 1:30 PM	Education * Changed * Capitol - 212 - Springfield, IL
4/25/2023 - 1:30 PM	Judiciary Capitol - 409 - Springfield, IL
4/25/2023 - 4:00 PM	Transportation Capitol - 212 - Springfield, IL
4/25/2023 - 4:00 PM	Health and Human Services * Changed * Capitol - 409 - Springfield, IL
4/25/2023 - 5:30 PM	Higher Education Capitol - 212 - Springfield, IL
4/25/2023 - 5:30 PM	Insurance Capitol - 400 - Springfield, IL
4/25/2023 - 5:30 PM	Financial Institutions Capitol - 409 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 8:30 AM	Appropriations - Education * Changed * Capitol - 409 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 8:30 AM	Appropriations Capitol - 212 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 11:00 AM	Behavioral and Mental Health Capitol - 400 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 11:00 AM	Labor Capitol - 212 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 1:30 PM	State Government * Changed * Capitol - 409 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 1:30 PM	Executive * Changed * Capitol - 212 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 1:30 PM	Licensed Activities * Changed * Capitol - 400 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 3:00 PM	Senate Special Committee on Criminal Law and Public Safety Capitol - 409 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 4:00 PM	Revenue Capitol - 400 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 4:00 PM	Local Government Capitol - 409 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 5:30 PM	Appropriations - Public Safety and Infrastructure Capitol - 212 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 5:30 PM	Transportation Capitol - 212 - Springfield, IL
4/26/2023 - 5:30 PM	Appropriations - Health and Human Services * Changed * Capitol - 400 - Springfield, IL
4/27/2023 - 8:30 AM	Agriculture Capitol - 212 - Springfield, IL
4/27/2023 - 9:00 AM	Veterans Affairs Capitol - 400 - Springfield, IL
4/27/2023 - 9:30 AM	Environment and Conservation Capitol - 400 - Springfield, IL
4/27/2023 - 9:30 AM	Energy and Public Utilities Capitol - 212 - Springfield, IL
4/27/2023 - 9:30 AM	Human Rights Capitol - 409 - Springfield, IL
4/27/2023 - 10:00 AM	Early Childhood Education Capitol - 114 - Springfield, IL

The fifth step will take you to the lists of bills that require your attention. From this page, you can view create a new Witness Slip or view who has already completed a Witness Slip. Click on the Create Witness Slip Icon.



Illinois 103rd General Assembly  
Senate Hearing Details

Welcome pamilla@comcast.net | Log Off

General Assembly:  
103rd G.A. (2023-2025)

Electronic witness slips can be submitted up to the end of the day of the committee's scheduled date.

**Senate Veterans Affairs Hearing Details**

Scheduled Date : 4/27/2023 - 9:00 AM  
Location : 400 - Capitol - - Springfield, IL  
Posting Date : 4/20/2023 - 3:10 PM

**Items Posted To Hearing**

Bill #	Sponsor Name	ABR - Short Description	Witness Slips
SR66	Tom Bennett	ATOMIC VETERANS DAY	[Witness Slips]
HB925	Mike Porfino	MILITARY SERVICE-TECH	[Witness Slips]
HB2500	Meg Loughran Cappel	ANIMAL ADOPTION-FEE WAIVER	[Witness Slips]
HB2856	Suzy Glowiak Hilton	VITAL RECORDS-VETERAN DEATH	[Witness Slips]
HB3295	Julie A. Morrison	DFPR-MILITARY FEE WAIVER	[Witness Slips]

Displaying items 1 - 5 of 5

If you have registered on the my.ilga.gov website, Section I, Identification will be completed for you. Complete the remaining steps per the diagram below.



**RECORD OF COMMITTEE WITNESS - ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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**HB 5184 Bill #**  
BILL OR RESOLUTION NUMBER

Veterans' Affairs Committee Committee  
**Wednesday, April 6, 2022 11:00 AM** **Date time of hearing**

Other (Subject Matter): Unavailable

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**I. IDENTIFICATION**

All fields are required unless noted as optional.

Name: **Your Name**

Address: **Your Address**

City: **Your Town** State: IL Zip: **Your Zip Code**

Firm/Business Or Agency: **Organization & TOWN Example "VFW Mount Prospect" if N/A Self**

Title: **Miss Mr Ms Mrs**

Email: **Your Email**  
(A confirmation email will be sent if email address is provided.)

Phone: **### - ### - ####**

Fax (Optional):

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**II. REPRESENTATION**

This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of a group, organization or other entity.

Persons, groups firms represented in this appearance:  
**SELF this is preferred unless you represent the department or above**

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**III. POSITION**

Select your position(s) on the legislative items.

Description: SCA 1  **Click** Proponent  Opponent  No Position On Merits

**Proponent unless we ask you to Oppose a bill**

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**IV. TESTIMONY**

Select the testimony types that you will supply for the hearing. (Check all that apply)

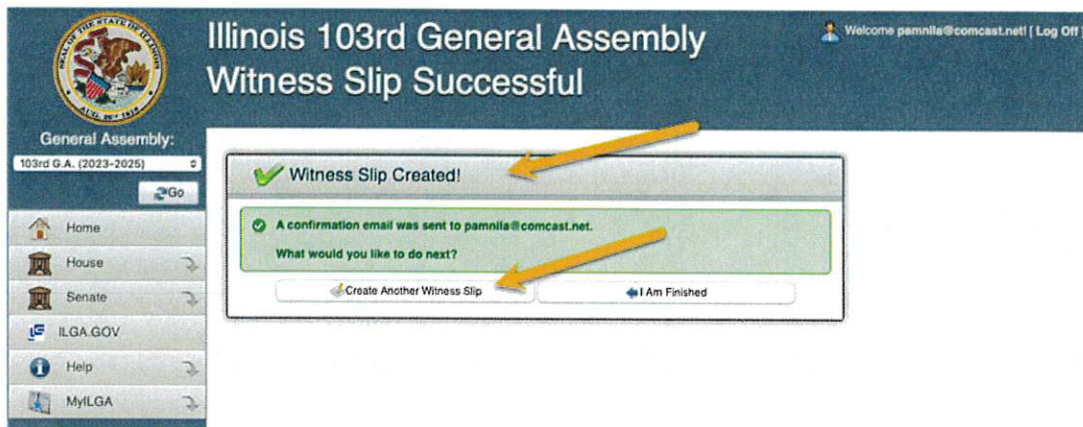
Oral  Written Statement Filed  **Click** Record Of Appearance Only

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**Click** Please Agree to the Terms Of Agreement I Agree to the ILGA Terms of Agreement. **4**

**Click** **5** **Click** **Create(Slip)**

You will then receive a notice that you will be sent an email confirmation the a Witness Slip was created. And you will be asked if you would like to Create another Winess Slip or select that I am Finished. Selecting Create Another Witness Slip will return you to the list of bills where you would like to create Witness Slips.



The website does not remove the bill that you have already created a Witness Slip for. If you select View Witness Slips, you will find that your Witness Slip is on the last page. Although you may filter Witness Slip the default filing is my date and time created.

Continue with the process above until you have completed Witness Slips for all of the bills. If you have registered on the site, each bill should only take a minute or so to complete

