



www.inmilcoal.org



The Military / Veterans Coalition of Indiana's (TMVCI) mission promotes the needs of the military community of Indiana; this includes Veterans, Active Duty Service Members, National Guard Service Members, Reservist, surviving spouses, retirees and their families. We encourage the Indiana Government to enact legislation recognizing the honor brought to the state and nation by their service. We communicate through personal contact, with the media and via website to government representatives of Indiana and other agencies as deemed necessary.

We are military, veterans and uniformed-service organizations that promote:

- Military awareness and advocacy throughout Indiana.
- Commitment to the maintenance of a strong national defense as provided by the dedicated, skilled and highly capable personnel of the uniformed services to include the Reserve components.
- The interests of Indiana military, veterans, their families and survivors by promoting and supporting efforts to retain a compensation, entitlements, readiness, retention and other benefits within the State.
- Support of programs to educate the public on the extraordinary demand and sacrifices associated with military service and the accomplishments of our military members.
- Events and support for service members, veterans and their family members within the State.



2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA


MVCI has developed a list of goals that they seek to have enacted by the Indiana General Assembly over several years considering balancing the priorities of the State of Indiana with that of the current service members, veterans, surviving spouses, retirees and their families. The legislative goals are developed over time, adjusted as needs and issues become known to the group by members of the Coalition. The Legislative Goals are considered a living document and adapted based upon the budget cycle of Indiana. Goals are prepared based on input by all members of the Coalition.




VISION & LONG-TERM GOALS

The Military / Veterans Coalition of Indiana's vision is to make Indiana a veteran / military friendly state as recognized by Indiana's ranking among all the states. We seek to have state and local government, not for profit organizations, and private enterprises think and act positively thinking of veterans and military first when undertaking actions.

For more information please visit our website
www.inmilcoal.org or contact:



Ron Martin 317-709-2567 vfw7119@att.net or
Jim Bauerle 317-844-6432 bgjimbauerle@gmail.com



1. Directed use of Lottery gaming proceeds for county veteran service officer (CVSO) salaries.

- Direct \$4 Million in lottery proceeds to be used for funding county veterans' service officers' salary. Funding actions should be via block grants to the counties.
- Require counties with veteran population over 5,000 to add an additional half staff (20 hrs work weekly) CVSO for each 2,500 additional veterans in that county.
- Any unused part of this fund reverts to the Military Family Relief Fund.

2. 21st Century Veterans Support.

- Require County Veteran Service Officers, City Veteran Service Officers, District Veteran Service Officers to be initially accredited by the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO).

3. Update Indiana Code 10-17 especially the eligibility criteria to the Military Family Relief Fund.

- Add Hoosier Veteran, Reserve, and NG eligibility guidelines.
- Eliminate service connection criteria.
- Clarify state residence requirements.
- Eliminate the requirement of serving in time of conflict or war.
- Clarify what funds can be used for from MFRF.
- Clarify Commission and Director roles and responsibilities.
- Update code to eliminate obsolete code and add new items.

4. Veteran Higher Education Assistance Matters.

- Limit duration of tuition remission to undergraduate degree programs separately from any other tuition remission programs.
- Provide children of all service connected disabled veterans full remission of fees at any State supported post secondary school or university in the State of Indiana.

5. Reserve Higher Education Assistance Matters.

- Create a Reserve Tuition Supplement Program for Indiana Reservists like the National Guard Program. Program should focus on STEM and education degrees.
- Authorize use of existing higher education grant funds to cover this program.

6. Veteran Property Tax Matters.

- Exemption for Surviving Spouse of Service Member killed in Action, Dies While on Active Duty, or receives Dependency Income Compensation (DIC).
- Exemption of real property used and owned as homestead by disabled veteran or individual described as individually unemployable by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs regardless of their service connected disability rating.

7. The Honor and Remember Flag Act.

- Require state and local government to fly the Honor and Remember Flag during the month of May.

8. Create an Indiana Heroes Home Loan Program

- Develop the Indiana Housing Finance Agency (IHFA) "Indiana Heroes Home Loan Program" which offers mortgage loan interest rate discounts to active duty, veterans, Guard and Reserve members, and surviving spouse who are residents of Indiana.
- Design these loans for single-family primary residences and have income and price limits, which may vary by county.
- Build this program off the model passed in Ohio and insure this program will operate via a list of participating lenders.

9. The Hoosier Veteran Homelessness Reduction Act.

- Provide one full time staff person to lead a Hoosier Veteran Homelessness Task Force to design, coordinate, and execute plans to manage the entire state initiatives—working with federal, state, county and other entities.
- Modify existing Indiana Code to include Hoosier Veterans and not just Veterans as qualified by the federal VA grant programs.
- Provide property tax credits for Landlord/Property Owners/Managers who house Hoosier Veterans that receive housing assistance via the VA or Veteran Organizations.