

West Virginia Legislature  
Legislative Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs



Senate Members

Senator Erik Wells, Co-Chairman  
Senator Larry Edgell  
Senator Doug Facemire  
Senator Walt Helmick  
Senator Jack Yost  
Senator Dave Sybolt

House of Delegates Members

Delegate Richard J. Iaquina, Co-Chairman  
Delegate Barbara Fleischauer, Co-Chairwoman  
Delegate Tony Barill  
Delegate Ronnie Jones  
Delegate Linda Longstreth  
Delegate Dale Stephens  
Delegate David Walker  
Delegate Tom Azinger

The West Virginia Legislative Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs met each month during the 2012-2013 interim period beginning in May 2012 and ending in February 2013 to discuss and study topics relating to issues facing veterans, their families, and ways to enhance benefits available to them. At its meetings, the committee received testimony from the following individuals:

**Major General Jim Hoyer, The Adjutant General, West Virginia National Guard**  
**General David Buckalew, West Virginia National Guard**

Major General Hoyer and General Buckalew appeared before the committee to present information regarding the current status of the West Virginia National Guard and its various projects. The Generals appeared often to provide updates and answer questions from the committee members.

**Secretary Keith Gwinn, West Virginia Department of Veterans' Assistance**

Secretary Gwinn appeared before the committee at nearly every meeting to provide updates and answer questions regarding the various projects within the newly minted Department of Veterans' Assistance.

**Mr. Toney Colagrosso, TRICARE**

Mr. Colagrosso appeared before the committee several times to present information regarding TRICARE and the efforts to increase TRICARE acceptance at health care providers.

**Dr. Gregory Aloia, President, Concord University**

Dr. Aloia appeared before the committee and presented an update on the progress of the HEPC Veteran Friendly Taskforce and the veteran friendly campus initiative.

**Ms. Linda Artimez, Esq., Director of Mental Hygiene and Mental Health Court Services and Administrative Counsel, WV Supreme Court of Appeals**

Ms. Artimez appeared before the committee and presented information regarding West Virginia Supreme Court of

Senator Erik Wells  
Co-Chairman

Delegate Richard J. Iaquina  
Co-Chairman

Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer  
Co-Chairwoman

Appeals' implementation of veterans treatment courts in West Virginia.

**Ms. Marjorie Anne McDiarmid, Esq., Steptoe & Johnson Professor of Law and Technology, WVU College of Law**

Ms. McDiarmid appeared before the committee to present information regarding the Veterans Assistance Project of the WVU Clinical Law Program.

**Ms. LeeAnn Bills, Coordinator of the Homeless Veterans Resource Center, Huntington and Bryan Chambers, Veterans Ride Cyclist**

Ms. Bills appeared before the committee to present information regarding the Homeless Veterans Resource Center in Huntington and the HVRC Homeless Veterans Ride 2012.

**Mr. Gerry McCarthy, Interim Veterans' Advocate, West Virginia University**

Mr. McCarthy appeared before the committee to present information regarding issues of treatment of student veterans, national guard and reserve members who get called up for active duty during a school term.

**Mr. Skip Gebheart, Veterans Coordinator, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission**

Mr. Gebheart appeared before the committee and presented information regarding the Veteran Friendly Campus initiative and state and federal tuition programs for veterans.

**Dr. Joseph Scotti, Professor, West Virginia University**

**Hilda Heady, Senior Vice President and Chair, Rural Health Research and Policy Group, Atlas Research**

Dr. Scotti and Ms. Heady appeared jointly before the committee to present information regarding the second commissioned veteran study to identify emerging issues facing veterans and recently returned service members.

**Mr. Frank Hartman, Hartman Law and Government Affairs**

**Dr. Scott Fields, Ph. D., Director of Behavioral Sciences, WVU School of Medicine Charleston**

**Dr. Deb Coleman, Ph. D, Waiver Coordinator, PAIS Inc.**

Mr. Hartman, Dr. Fields, and Dr. Coleman appeared jointly before the committee to present information regarding the TRICARE healthcare program's mental health care cost coverage.

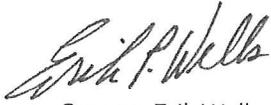
The committee took action on and recommended the introduction of the following legislation to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance:

**HB/SB \*\*\*\*** - Relating to students of higher education and the impact of being called to service duty on the education process. This bill calls upon the state Higher Education Policy Commission to establish a uniform policy for state institutions of higher education under their respective jurisdictions for students enrolled at the institutions who are called or ordered to state or federal active service, inactive-duty training or annual training in any active duty or reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or of the National Guard of this state or any other state.

**HB/SB \*\*\*\*** - Relating to veterans advocates at the state's institutions of higher education. The purpose of this bill is to provide for the appointment of a veterans advocate for student veterans at state institutions of higher education

in this state.

Respectfully submitted,



Senator Erik Wells  
Co-Chairman



Delegate Richard J. Iaquinta  
Co-Chairman



Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer  
Co-Chairwoman

Senator Erik Wells  
Co-Chairman

Delegate Richard J. Iaquinta  
Co-Chairman

Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer  
Co-Chairwoman