

Providing Support For
Those Who Protect And
Serve New York State

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

Volunteer, Veterans, and First Responder Agenda

Voices for Veterans

Housing Assistance – Enact the "Homes for Heroes" plan to increase home affordability and ownership among veterans

Support Military Spouses – Expand when military spouses are eligible for a leave of absence

Employ Our Veterans – Provide State support to employers for hiring veteran employees

Improve Veteran Facilities – Allow State grants to be used for capital costs of construction, improvement, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of facilities owned by veterans' organizations

Green Alert System – Establish a missing person alert system for veterans struggling with mental illness

Veterans Clearinghouse – Create a veterans' clearinghouse for the purpose of identifying veterans eligible for benefits

Providing Healthcare for Veterans and First Responders

Access to Mental Health Care – Require a study to improve the way we treat Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Cost of Health Care – Establish the "New York's Own Combat Veterans Health Care Choice Program Act" to provide tax-free savings accounts to help certain veterans with healthcare costs

Promote Information – Provide information for veterans on health issues such as depression, eating disorders, anxiety, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, and bipolar disorder

Incentivizing Volunteerism in New York State

Recognize Our Volunteers – Establish the Omnibus Emergency Services Volunteer Incentive Act to provide numerous benefits to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers

Reduce the Tax Burden – Provide income tax exemptions for qualifying volunteers

Encourage Volunteer Education – Reward volunteer firefighters with additional educational opportunities

Supporting Our First Responders

Peer Support – Enact the “Health Care Worker Peer Support Program” which provides grants for entities establishing peer-to-peer mental health programs for health care workers.

Line of Duty Sick Leave – Allow PTSD to be a qualifying reason for line of duty sick leave for first responders

Protect Firefighters Attending Training – Ensure those taking part in firefighter training cannot be penalized by their employer

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