



*(May 23, 2016)*

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

**Alma L. Lee**  
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing: Good news: AFGE victory in House of Representatives**

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Sisters and Brothers:

As a follow-up to my email yesterday, AFGE won a big victory today on the House floor. On a bipartisan basis, we defeated a terrible anti-union amendment offered by Rep. Gosar (R-AZ) to the VA Military Construction Appropriations bill (200 yes and 225 no's) . The amendment was designed to attack the ability of labor unions to communicate with bargaining union employees working in VA hospitals and clinics. Our victory is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our entire AFGE team which mobilized against amendments to the bill attacking union rights. It is noteworthy that no House member even offered an official time amendment which is undoubtedly a tribute to our past victories in killing those amendments. Congratulations and thank to all of you for your efforts which were critical to our victory.

Thank you,

Thomas S. Kahn  
Director, Legislative Affairs  
American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)