

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) joined a bipartisan majority in the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday in voting for legislation to assist homeless veterans, provide cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to disabled veterans, and ensure all veterans have access to emergency care.

“It is our duty to protect the men and women who protect us,” **Arcuri said**. “All too often the men and women who sacrifice the most for our freedoms are hit the hardest during times of economic crisis. We owe our veterans the utmost respect and gratitude for their service and we must honor the commitments made to them. They should not have to return home to be confronted by the possibility of poverty or homelessness and no veteran should forgo emergency care because they don’t know if the Veterans Administration will cover the cost.”

Arcuri voted for, and the House of Representatives passed, the following pieces of legislation to provide for and protect America’s veterans:

- H.R. 1377, which expands veteran eligibility for reimbursement of emergency treatment provided at a non-VA facility. This bill requires the VA to pay for emergency treatment for a non-service connected condition if a private insurer is not responsible for paying for the full cost of care.
- The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (H.R. 1171), which reauthorizes the program for the next five years. Grants would be made available to provide job training, counseling, placement services, and child care services to assist veterans in rejoining the civilian labor force. This bill also authorizes \$10 million to provide specific services for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.
- The Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2009 (H.R. 1513) which increases basic compensation rates for disabled veterans. The bill provides a COLA to veterans receiving disability payments and also to the survivors and dependents receiving dependency or indemnity compensation. The COLA would become effective December 1, 2009, and would be equal to that provided to Social Security recipients on an annual basis.

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