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U.S. House of Representatives

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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

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Veterans' Jobs and Business Opportunities Package

- Priority Placement in Job Training.** (Enacted in Public Law 107-288, Jobs for Veterans Act) Gives those who have worn the military uniform an unprecedented "first-in-line" priority in all Department of Labor-funded employment training programs.
- President's National Hire Veterans Committee.** (Enacted in Public Law 107-288) Created the *President's National Hire Veterans Committee* whose goal is to promote the hiring of veterans in the private-sector. The Secretary of Labor has named Mr. Terrance O'Mahoney to chair the Committee. Mr. O'Mahoney is a former commissioner of the Texas Workforce Commission. As required by the Jobs for Veterans Act, Mr. O'Mahoney is establishing a President's Committee Chairman in each state to develop jobs for veterans.
- Pre-Separation Employment Assistance for Servicemembers Overseas.** (Enacted in Public Law 108-183, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003) For the first time, our servicemembers now receive in-person job placement services prior to concluding tours of duty at our military installations in South Korea, Japan, Germany, and soon in Italy and Great Britain.
- Entrepreneurship Opportunities.** (Enacted in Public Law 108-183) For the first time, federal contracting officers will now have discretionary authority to offer sole source or restricted competition contracts to disabled veteran-owned small businesses. It also allows veterans to pursue entrepreneurship training with VA education benefits through Small Business Development Centers nationwide – another first. These provisions were derived from the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Benefits Improvements Act of 2003
- Private-Sector On-Job Training and Apprenticeship Modernization.** (H.R. 1716, the Veterans Earn and Learn Act, introduced last April). Would dramatically update VA-administered on-job training (OJT) and apprenticeship opportunities to reflect business and industry today. About 65 percent of our servicemembers are married when they leave active duty. "Earning and learning" simultaneously under an employer/VA developed, multi-year OJT or apprenticeship program can serve as an excellent transition tool for young families.
- Franchise Business Opportunities.** Legislation currently under development that for the first time would allow veterans to use VA education benefits to help defray the training costs associated with starting and growing a franchise business. Veterans have earned the opportunity to participate in the free-enterprise economy their service has sustained.