



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans

July 15, 2011

The Honorable Jeff Miller, Chairman
House Veterans' Affairs Committee
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

I am writing on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), a congressionally chartered national veterans service organization with 1.2 million members, all of whom were disabled as a result of wartime active duty in the United States Armed Forces. The DAV works to build better lives for America's disabled veterans, their families and survivors.

Chairman Miller, we have reviewed your bill, H.R. 2433, the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011. This bill contains a number of provisions of importance to America's veterans.

Approval of this legislation would make participation in the Transition Assistance Program generally mandatory for all military service members. The bill would mandate that the Department of Labor's (DOL's) licensure and certification demonstration project, which the originating statute only recommended, be carried out in an effort to identify and to eliminate barriers between military training and civilian licensure or credentialing for military occupational specialties. Enactment of the legislation would require DOL, in concert with state workforce agencies, to implement new performance measures to evaluate the priority of services provided to eligible veterans and mandates that Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives' sole duty will be to assist eligible veterans in finding suitable employment.

Another important provision in this legislation is Section 401, which clarifies the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). While this section stipulates that such protections extend to any advantages earned as a result of employment to include rights and benefits offered by an employer, we respectfully recommend that it be amended to include allowing veterans to seek medical treatment for service-connected conditions in accordance with DAV Resolution 141.

Overall, the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011 makes important improvements to support veterans transitioning to civilian life, especially those who return with disabilities from their service. DAV supports approval of this legislation and thanks you for your support of disabled veterans.

Sincerely,


JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE
National Legislative Director

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