



July 19, 2011

Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs
US House of Representatives
335 Cannon House Office building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), I would like to offer our support for H.R. 2433, the "Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011." The employment challenges facing average Americans is certainly no secret, but the challenges facing veterans, particularly disabled veterans, are even greater.

PVA appreciates the emphasis placed on improving the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) in this legislation. We also fully support the requirement that participation in the TAP be made mandatory for all service members prior to discharge. Given the difficulty that recently discharged service members have achieving meaningful employment, it only makes sense that they be required to participate in TAP or DTAP.

PVA also fully supports the provisions to require state employment offices receiving federal grants to maintain a full-time Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist and a full-time Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) whose responsibilities are to only serve the employment needs of eligible veterans. Too often, state employment offices take advantage of DVOP and LVER staff to fulfill other requirements not related to serving veterans. This has long been a complaint of veterans' service organizations.

Again, we offer our strong support for H.R. 2433. Meaningful employment is a vital part of improving transition for service members currently serving as well as fulfilling our obligation to the men and women who served in the past.

Sincerely,

Carl Blake
National Legislative Director

Chartered by the Congress of the United States

801 Eighteenth Street, NW ★ Washington, DC 20006-3517
phone:(202) 872-1300 ★ tdd:(202) 416-7622 ★ fax:(202) 785-4452 ★ www.pva.org