



IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN
VETERANS OF AMERICA

July 18, 2011

The Honorable Jeff Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
2416 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is proud to offer our support for H.R. 2433, the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act.

The most pressing concern for new veterans in 2011 is unemployment. With 13.3% unemployment for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in June 2011 and a rate of 12.3% for the year overall, unemployment is one of the single greatest challenges faced by veterans. Even though employment is a concern for every American in the current economic environment, the average unemployment rate for new veterans is 25 percent higher than the rate for civilians.

H.R. 2433 attacks this problem head on, by making Transition Assistance Programs mandatory, providing veterans with increased job training benefits, studying how military skills translate in to the civilian market, strengthening USERRA and collecting data on the effectiveness of government job training and placement services.

IAVA believes that no veteran should come home to an unemployment check. We are proud to offer our assistance and thank you for this meaningful legislation. If we can be of help, please contact Tom Tarantino, IAVA's Senior Legislative Associate, at (202) 544-7692 or tom@iava.org.

Sincerely,

Paul Rieckhoff
Founder & Executive Director
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)