



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-8143

August 3, 2011

The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman, Committee on Veterans Affairs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former servicemembers and their families and survivors, is writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 2433, the *Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011*.

H.R. 2433 would re-open Vietnam Era GI Bill educational benefits to certain veterans who have been chronically unemployed, mandate attendance in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), require the Department of Defense and the Department of Labor to track outcome measures for TAP participants, re-authorize a pilot program to link military acquired skills to civilian jobs through licensing and certification, and for other purposes.

TMC recommends including a provision in the bill to require outreach by the VA to unemployed veterans who may be eligible for the GI Bill benefits authorized in Title I of the legislation. We would also recommend extension and improvement of Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VRE) program benefits provided for in similar legislation pending before your Committee such as the Hiring Heroes Act of 2011.

Our veterans have put their lives on the line to protect the freedom we sometimes take for granted. They have the skills, discipline and talent to succeed in the marketplace but may encounter unique challenges in finding meaningful employment or starting a business. The Veterans Opportunity to Work Act will help our nation's veterans gain the skills and knowledge they need to compete for meaningful jobs.

The Military Coalition endorses H.R. 2433, the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011 and pledges our collective efforts to see it enacted this year.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)

cc: The Honorable Bob Filner (D-CA), Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans Affairs

[Signature]
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)

[Signature]
Military Officers Assn. of America

[Signature]
Air Force Women Officers
Associated

[Signature]
Military Order of the Purple Heart

[Signature]
AMVETS

[Signature]
National Association for
Uniformed Services

[Signature]
Army Aviation Assn. of America

[Signature]
National Guard Assn. of the US

[Signature]
Assn. of Military Surgeons
of the United States

[Signature]
National Military Family Assn.

[Signature]
Assn. of the US Army

[Signature]
Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.

[Signature]
Association of the United States Navy

[Signature]
Non Commissioned Officers Assn.
of the United States of America

[Signature]
Commissioned Officers Assn. of
the US Public Health Service, Inc

[Signature]
Reserve Enlisted Assn. of the US

[Signature]
CWO & WO Assn. US Coast Guard

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Reserve Officers Assn

[Signature]
Enlisted Association of the
National Guard of the US

[Signature]
Society of Medical Consultants
to the Armed Forces

[Signature]
Fleet Reserve Assn.

[Signature]
The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

[Signature]
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

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The Retired Enlisted Assn.

[Signature]
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans
of America

[Signature]
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

[Signature]
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

[Signature]
US Army Warrant Officers Assn.

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Marine Corps League

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Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US

[Signature]
Marine Corps Reserve Association

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Vietnam Veterans of America