



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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August 1, 2011

The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans Affairs
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

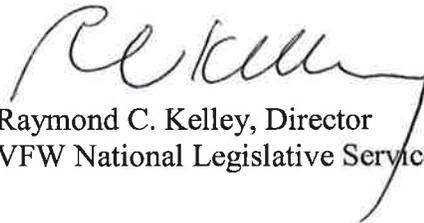
On behalf of the 2.1 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and our Auxiliaries, I am pleased to offer our support for your bill, the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act, H.R. 2433, which offers substantive new programs to help veterans remain competitive in the workforce, and also codifies reporting requirements for government authorities tasked with assisting veterans in finding viable careers.

Your important legislation will extend additional assistance to an oft-overlooked demographic group of veterans who remain unemployed at a time of economic uncertainty. This temporary solution is a responsible stop-gap measure that will help ensure that our nation's heroes can receive the training and skills they need in an ever-evolving civilian job market.

The VFW also supports initiatives in the VOW Act to mandate transition assistance programs and finally conduct reasonable follow-up with TAP participants, as well as assessment and follow-up for disabled veterans outreach program specialists (DVOPs) and local veterans employment representatives (LVERs), ensuring that each program serves its intended purpose - helping veterans find jobs.

The men and women who serve today are the future leaders of our great nation. They deserve every opportunity to succeed in the civilian workforce. However, the employment climate for veterans - particularly veterans of the current conflicts - is a national embarrassment that demands immediate attention. Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue, and for your continued support of our armed forces and veterans.

Sincerely,



Raymond C. Kelley, Director
VFW National Legislative Service