

The American Legion



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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June 12, 2014

Honorable John Kline, Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express support for the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*.

As a bipartisan, bicameral agreement, the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* is a significant achievement that represents a careful balancing of concerns to reach a common goal that will benefit millions of Americans, including those with disabilities who face numerous challenges to workforce participation. For veterans, the legislation contains several major provisions of interest including:

- Representation on state and local workforce boards for organizations serving veterans with barriers to employment.
- Requirements that state workforce plans specify how they will implement priority of service for veterans.
- Funding to help veterans and people with disabilities navigate multiple service programs and activities.
- Looser Job Corps eligibility rules for veterans within six months of discharge.
- Assurances that veterans with disabilities will be better served by state vocational rehabilitation programs.

The American Legion has several resolutions which speak to our support of these issues, including **Resolution No. 47** (National Convention 2012): *Support Improvements in the Reporting Program Available to and Administered by Veterans' Employment and Training Service*, **Resolution No. 52** (National Convention 2012): *Support Legislation that would Return Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) Funding to a Staffing Grant*, and **Resolution No. 53** (National Convention 2012): *Support Legislation that Ensures that all Agencies that Receive Funding from the U.S. Department of Labor or the Workforce Investment Act Meet the Mandatory Compliance Standards for Veterans Preference*.

Again, The American Legion supports this legislation and applauds your leadership in addressing these issues facing our nation's veterans.

Respectfully,

DANIEL M. DELLINGER
National Commander