

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

June 21, 2012

The Honorable Jeff Denham
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Denham:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, thanks you for introducing H.R. 4155, the "Veterans Skills to Jobs Act."

Veterans who have served in the military since September 11, 2001, face an unemployment rate of 12.7 percent, and young veterans under the age of 25 confront an unemployment rate of 29.1 percent. With one million men and women projected to leave the Armed Forces over the next five years, this problem promises to become more dire if not addressed.

The Chamber has taken a leadership role in seeking employment opportunities for veterans who are leaving military service. We expanded our "Hiring Our Heroes" program in March of 2011, and through this nationwide, grass-roots effort, have hosted approximately 200 hiring fairs for veterans and military spouses in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The result of this effort has led to approximately 10,000 job-placements. We have also launched a "Hiring 500,000 Heroes" campaign, through which we are working with the private sector to secure commitments to hire 500,000 veterans and military spouses by the end of 2014.

The Veterans Skills to Jobs Act would enhance opportunities for veterans to find employment by making clear that the training they received during their military service would satisfy similar civilian requirements, streamlining and expediting their availability for positions that require specialized certifications.

H.R. 4155 would be an important step towards reducing barriers to entry into the private sector workforce for veterans. The Chamber compliments you and the cosponsors of this legislation for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

cc: The Honorable Timothy J. Walz
The Honorable Richard Nugent
The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
The Honorable Bob Gibbs
The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
The Honorable Dan Benishek
The Honorable Bill Johnson
The Honorable Mike Coffman
The Honorable Andre Carson
The Honorable Steven R. Rothman
The Honorable Michael H. Michaud
The Honorable Gary G. Miller
The Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo
The Honorable John R. Carter
The Honorable Joe Courtney
The Honorable Judy Chu
The Honorable Nan A. S. Hayworth