



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
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May 7, 2010

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

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, writes to thank you for your leadership in sponsoring S.3234, the *Veteran Employment Assistance Act of 2010*.

S. 3234 is a comprehensive bill that offers greatly needed support and innovative approaches to the growing problem of unemployment among our nation's Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Veteran unemployment has ballooned to over 21% among OIF – OEF veterans and the rate of unemployment among women veterans is rising even faster.

TMC has been in the forefront of urging coordinated action in Congress on “seamless transition” initiatives for our veterans. Your bill is a pragmatic approach to addressing the tough challenges that our veterans face when they complete military service.

S.3234 would realize one of our top priorities for veterans: job training authority in the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. Every GI Bill program since World War II except for the new program has included job training benefits.

In addition, your bill would enhance the ability to transition military skills to the civilian workforce; improve small business assistance programs for veterans; and promote new ways to improve veterans' employment assistance programs.

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 sometimes face unique challenges in finding meaningful employment or starting a business. The Veterans Employment Assistance Act will help veterans find their own path to future success and take their place among our nation's leaders.

The Military Coalition strongly endorses S. 3234 and pledges its collective efforts to see it enacted this year.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)

Air Force Association
Air Force Sergeants Association
Air Force Women Officers Associated
American Logistics Association
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Army Aviation Association of America
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States
Association of the United States Army
Association of the United States Navy
Chief Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Association, U.S. Coast Guard
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States
Fleet Reserve Association
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America
Marine Corps League
Marine Corps Reserve Association
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the Purple Heart
National Association for Uniformed Services
National Military Family Association
National Order of Battlefield Commissions
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Non Commissioned Officers Association
Reserve Enlisted Association of the United States
Reserve Officers Association
Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces
The Retired Enlisted Association
United States Army Warrant Officers Association
United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States