



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

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August 3, 2011

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

The Honorable Bob Filner
Rkg. Member, Comm. on Veterans Affairs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Filner:

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 express our collective support for H.R. 1941, the *Hiring Heroes Act of 2011*.

H.R. 1941 is a bi-partisan bill that directly addresses the many challenges our returning warriors and other veterans face as they transition from active military service into the civilian workplace.

The Hiring Heroes Act of 2011:

- provides an additional 24 months of vocational rehabilitation and employment (VRE) services for certain disabled veterans who have exhausted VRE and any state-provided unemployment benefits;
- directs the VA to assess employment outcomes for veterans who have used VRE;
- permits service men and women still on active duty to initiate the federal employment hiring process prior to separation;
- requires the Departments of Labor, Defense and VA to collaborate to eliminate barriers between military and civilian credentialing or licensure for several military occupational specialties;
- requires mandatory participation in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) for separating service women and men; and, for other purposes.

TMC recommends that desirable features of other pending legislation such as the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011 be combined with H.R. 1941.

The Military Coalition strongly endorses H.R.1941, the Hiring Heroes Act of 2011, and we look forward to working with you to assure its early passage this year.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)

Air Force Sergeants Association
Air Force Women Officers Associated
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
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 Guard Association of the United States
National Military Family Association
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
Vietnam Veterans of America