



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

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April 26, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman, Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Richard E Neal
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and
Means
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Chairmen Brady, Hatch, Ranking Members Neal, and Wyden,

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniform services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, thanks you and the Committee for your efforts to improve the employment prospects of veterans by extending the VOW To Hire Heroes Act tax credits and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for five years.

The VOW To Hire Heroes Act, signed in 2011, strengthened the WOTC by significantly increasing the financial incentives to employers for hiring veterans, including veterans with disabilities. Department of Labor (DOL) statistics show that 35,904 veterans were certified for WOTC during the three-year period before the VOW Act. By contrast, 278,611 veterans were certified during FY 2013-15, an increase of more than 700 percent. The WOTC has been a critically important tool for solving the veteran unemployment problem.

However, the constant cycle of expiration and retroactive renewals of these tax credits causes a great deal of uncertainty among employers. By reforming the tax code to include a permanent WOTC, employers will build veteran employment into their decision-making processes. Additionally, veterans will have certainty this is one more arrow in their quiver so they can more effectively pitch themselves to employers.

TMC also urges you to include military spouses in a permanent WOTC. Military spouses often find themselves penalized and disadvantaged in the labor marketplace because of constant relocations. Unemployment and underemployment are chronic problems in the military spouse community, both of which adversely affect military families. You can help address these issues by including them in this tax credit.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)

Air Force Association
Air Force Sergeants Association
Air Force Women Officers Associated
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Army Aviation Association of America
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals
Association of the United States Army
Association of the United States Navy
Chief Warrant & Warrant Officers Association, USCG
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 Officers Association of America
Military Order of the Purple Heart
National Guard Association of the United States
National Military Family Association
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Non Commissioned Officers Association
Reserve Officers Association
Service Women's Action Network
The Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
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

Military Coalition Letter in re: April 26, 2017