

The Veterans Employment Act of 2010

Senator Patty Murray's bill improves job training and placement services to ensure veterans who have served and sacrificed for our nation have jobs when they come home. Landmark legislation that for the first time takes a comprehensive approach to addressing the skyrocketing unemployment rates for our veterans.

THE PROBLEM: Veterans Are Highly Skilled, but More Than Twenty-One Percent Can't Find a Job

Veterans have the skills, determination, discipline and talent to succeed in the twenty-first century economy. But too often they face unique challenges that translate into trouble finding a job or starting a business.

- Members of the Armed Forces learn a wide range of technical and leadership skills during their time in the military, but often find it difficult to transfer these skills to civilian professions.
- Too often veterans fall through the cracks of existing employment assistance programs or do not qualify for their services.
- The economic downturn has hit younger veterans especially hard, with more than twenty-one percent of veterans ages 18 to 24 going without jobs when they return home.

SOLUTION: Translating Skills into Career Success for Veterans

Senator Murray's bill expands job training, placement services and entrepreneurship opportunities for veterans who may otherwise have fallen through the cracks of existing programs. The Veterans Employment Act:

- Establishes a Veteran Business Center Program within the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide critical entrepreneurial training and counseling to veterans.
- Expands the Post-9/11 GI Bill to allow returning veterans to use the benefit for apprenticeship and worker training programs that will help them acquire the skills they need to find stable, family-wage jobs in their communities.
- Creates pilot programs to test ways transitioning servicemembers can build on the technical skills learned in the military and better market those skills in the civilian workforce.
- Establishes a Veterans Conservation Corps Grant Program and a Veterans Energy/Green Jobs Grant Program to connect veterans with the green jobs market of the future.

SOLUTION: Improving Veterans Employment Assistance

The Veterans Employment Act also takes steps to make current job assistance programs work better for veterans. Murray's bill:

- Examines the expansion of the National Guard Employment Enhancement Project (NGEEP), which would provide transition assistance to National Guard members.
- Requires the Department of Defense and the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service to examine the Transition Assistance Program for active duty servicemembers and recommend how to update and upgrade the program to meet the needs of today's veterans.