



Commemorating 40 Years Of Disability Advocacy 1973-2013

April 12, 2013

The Honorable Keith Kelly
Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training Service
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room S-1325
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Assistant Secretary Kelly,

We the undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Veterans and Military Families Task Force are writing to ask that you fully implement Section 234 of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-56) with the funding and authority provided to the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS) in the recently approved Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013.

CCD is a coalition of national consumer, service provider, and professional organizations which advocates on behalf of people with disabilities and chronic conditions and their families.

The CCD Veterans and Military Families Task Force strongly supported the VOW to Hire Heroes Act aimed at addressing the high unemployment among America's veterans. The Task Force was especially pleased with the provisions in the legislation that provided access to new training for veterans of past conflicts, improved the Transition Assistance Program and made tax credits available to businesses for hiring veterans and veterans with disabilities. The Task Force also supported Section 234, the collaborative veterans' training, mentoring and placement program that fosters partnerships between nonprofits and disabled veterans' outreach specialists to assist veterans, including those with service-connected disabilities, by providing mentorship and direct services to help in their efforts to secure employment.

The Task Force was pleased that Congress provided DOL VETS funding above the President's fiscal year 2013 budget request and reprogrammed funding from a defunct veterans employment program to "the Transition Assistance Program and activities authorized by the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011." The undersigned members of the CCD Veterans and Military Families Task hope that DOL VETS will fully implement the collaborative veterans' training, mentoring, and placement program to ensure veterans, including those who have recently graduated from college or training programs (through the Post 9/11 GI Bill or the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program,) receive critical access to career mentoring and job placement services that can lead to successful employment.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please contact Maynard Friesz, co-chair of the CCD Veterans and Military Families Task Force, at 202-403-8345 or by e-mail at mfriesz@easterseals.com.

Sincerely,

American Association on Health and Disability
Brain Injury Association of America.
Easter Seals
Mental Health America

National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Council on Independent Living
Paralyzed Veterans of America
VetsFirst, a program of United Spinal Association