

The American Legion



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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July 29, 2015

Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senate
SD-521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Moran:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express support for S. 1870, *The Veterans Entrepreneurship Transition (VET) Act of 2015*. This bill, as written, would allow veterans to use their benefits under the GI Bill to start businesses instead of attending college.

The American Legion supports legislation that would extend the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefit to veteran entrepreneurs to finance their small businesses. The GI Bill was intended to give returning service members the training or education to become gainfully employed. The American Legion believes that the GI Bill should also be made available to those who choose to gainfully employ themselves; which is why we passed Resolution 12: *Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship* during our 2015 Spring National Executive Committee Meeting.

The fact that 62 percent of veteran-owned small businesses bootstrap their ventures with personal or family savings highlights the reality that access to capital remains an issue for the veterans community. This pilot program will explore the utilization of GI Bill as an alternate source of start-up capital.

The American Legion supports passage of this legislation, and applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's service members and veterans.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. HELM
National Commander