



1 VET AT A TIME
P.O. Box 4338
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27 July 2015

Senator Jerry Moran
Dirksen Senate Office Building, #521
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Moran,

We are contacting you to thank you for your leadership and express our wholehearted support for the Veteran Entrepreneurial Transition Act (S. 1870).

Currently, the Department of Defense describes three pathways for service members transitioning from active duty to the civilian world: 1) attend college, 2) enter the trades, or 3) start a business/entrepreneurship. While the Post-9/11 GI Bill does a wonderful job enabling a college education or training in the trades it does not address the third pathway of entrepreneurship.

The VET Act will greatly assist the Department of Defense in making the entrepreneurial transition pathway a reality for our deserving veterans.

This is important because **nearly half** of our Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans are **not currently using their GI Bill**. The fact is that many of our veterans, especially those who have done the "heavy lifting" in combat on multiple tours since 9-11, are simply not inclined to return to a college classroom filled with 18-year-olds, but their military experience and accomplishments have "hardwired" them for success in small business.

Unfortunately, the **unemployment rate for the Iraq and Afghanistan cohort of veterans has exceeded the national average for more than a decade** - especially for our female veterans. This is a shame. We have sent our young men and women off to war, but haven't fully welcomed them home. The VET Act will help make good on our Nation's promise to our brave young men and women in uniform.

It's time we ensured greater transition opportunities for our veterans. Following World War II, nearly 49% of returning veterans ended up owning their own businesses in large part due to the 1944 Servicemembers Readjustment Act. Today, less than 7% of returning veterans own their own businesses. We believe that the VET Act will provide 250 of today's veterans the same opportunities that the original 1944 Act provided their grandfathers.

Our veterans are proven, disciplined leaders who are capable of making sound decisions in complex and confusing environments. They are mission-focused and capable team-builders and small-unit leaders. While they are rich in experience and drive, almost all of them are under-capitalized when it comes to starting a business. We believe that the VET Act will provide them the collateral needed to start a business outright or provide the leverage needed to collateralize a subordinated business loan.



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We believe that investing in opportunities for our veterans will help:

- reignite our national small-business economic engine,
- lower veteran unemployment,
- employ more Americans nation-wide,
- increase revenue through business, payroll and income taxes, and thereby increase funds available for defense and administration of the GI Bill,
- materially advance veteran long-term sustainability,
- improve the likelihood that veterans will recommend the military as a worthwhile career to the recruitable demographic, thereby contributing to the success of the all-volunteer force,
- potentially lower the veteran suicide rate, and
- most importantly, allow veterans the full dignity of their service to our Nation.

As a pilot program, the VET Act represents a real opportunity for our veterans. We strongly encourage all members of Congress to support this important initiative.

Thanks for your continued support of our military community, and for your continued leadership.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Lynn Lowder".

C. Lynn Lowder
Founder and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Eisenberg".

Dale Eisenberg
Co-Founder

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Plenzler".

Joe Plenzler
Co-Founder

Please contact C. Lynn Lowder, CEO of 1 Vet at a Time for more information at (630) 222-5155 or clowderusmc@hotmail.com