

Kendra Kloster

From: Dixie D. Banner <akdaisyd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:58 PM
To: Kendra Kloster
Subject: Re: Military & Veteran Legislation for Next Week

Kendra,

In response to this proposed bill, offering a tax credit to employers, would generate both jobs and greatly enhance the economy for

AK. I am speaking as a Vet who is currently working for the Federal Government. An organization that is currently cutting jobs and an organization that has not seen growth in a number of years. Also, the opportunity for career enhancement is non-existent. In fact they propose a wage freeze until 2015. This one reason, I would like for the State of AK to take an initiative to spur growth in the private sector for working for the gov offers a minimum wage or less and a bleak retirement.

In speaking of the private sector this bill will benefit many veterans who are unemployed or underemployed, as well as, allow

veterans to utilize their training and skills that they have achieved while serving. In fact most new veterans (young ones) are far more educated were 10 years ago. In addition, this bill will be an initiative for the Oil and Gas Industry who may consider hiring Veterans vs. individuals who are from the Lower 48.

While looking into the future, will foster the ability to live and work in AK, for there are many young military members who will be looking for

work as the DOD is implementing cost cutting measures, in order to achieve a balance budget. This scenario will play out within the next

two to five years, since the writing is on the wall; i.e. many active duty will be voluntarily discharged, separated or be asked to retire, in order to create a streamlined military that is strong/effective/and small in numbers.

Now that the war is so called over in Iraq, and they plan to decommission a number of Brigades, the question is what is our nation going to do when our sons and daughters are required to return home to being a new life and required to re-enter the Civ Work force? Having worked with the new and seasoned military members whom have served for a few years, tend to forget what Civ Life has to offer and there are many culture differences in the work place; The young ones tend to forget what it is like to be a Civ and recognize the worth of the older and experienced Veterans who work shoulder to shoulder in order to accomplish the mission.

Bottom line if AK desires to maintain its future and ability to function as a state, it must create an initiative that will offer an open system

that will provide the ability for its Veterans to work and live in AK, as well as, have the ability to live the American dream (Have a career, family, home and live their life comfortably over time). If this initiative is overlooked then we will see our kids and grand kids migrating to the lower 48. All that is left will be those who are living from pay check to pay check and those who require state assistance. On a personal note, I did not go to school and serve my country in order to live in poverty and live in fear of not being able to retire.

When speaking of initiating the Hero's Act 2011, this program will be beneficial to all who is involved. It allows veterans to complete a transformation of their military careers into the Civ Sector with limited limitations. Most veterans now days are married and have children. The thought of returning to school, in order to find employment or better themselves is often impossible. This is due to the fact, funds are not available after being discharged. Furthermore, most young GI have spousal units who are young themselves and have small children in tow. Only one can return to school at a given time. Secondly, in most cases, the idea of daycare is not an option.

If an individual can access a professional position or allowed to reenter their profession (trade), with limited requirement, it is a win win situation for both the State and the Veteran, otherwise the family will be required to seek state assistance, which can be be challenging at times, since support often equates to control and after being in the military for years, this can create animosity. The Hero's Act will offer skilled professionals who will be able to enter the work force with out the need of extensive training requirement which for an employer, training is major cost and can determine one's long term ability to survive in a volital economy, esp now days. Lastly, the idea and the ability to find employment shortly after being discharge is a moral booster for the fact a Veteran is able to survive and make a living for themselves and their and family, (Work equates to self worth and pride, as well as, securing the ability to maintain emotional and financial security). The idea of being financially disposed and the idea of having to live with family, in order to survive is not pleasant.

If you have any questions, please send a reply. It has been a long cold January and I am ready for spring...I have many irons in the fire; however, I am like many Alaskans who are praying and waiting for the legislators to pave the way, which will build a better economy than what we have experienced in the last few years. PS I hope I am not late but I have been busy at work, as well as, at home. It actually warmed up today and it felt good.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

V/R

Dixie Banner