

## VETS HELPING VETS

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*"Making a difference one person at a time"*

Date: 22 January 2012

Subject: Support Letter for SB136 Income Tax Credit for Employing Veterans

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of many Alaska Veterans and the Vets Helping Vets organization of Anchorage, Alaska, I am writing this letter of support for the Income Tax Credit for Employing Veterans bill.

My name is Calista Anderson; I am the President of the Vets Helping Vets organization located here in Anchorage at 2808 E. Tudor Rd. , and a proud military (US Army) wife of 17 years. My husband along with many other spouses, sons, daughters and mothers and fathers have made many sacrifices and will continue to do so today and in the future for all the freedoms we enjoy in our way of life today. Many of these are now business owners. Too many have given the ultimate sacrifice! In saying this, every state in America should have such a bill as this put in to motion, but especially here in Alaska with the enormous amount of unemployment we have right here in our own community. Now and always in the future every business should receive a tax credit for hiring veterans, as we will always have veterans in our country. The reason we have the ability to open a business anytime or any place we choose is because of these veterans that ensured we are free, not living under a dictatorship as many countries today are forced to do so. Offering this bill will encourage business owners to hire more veterans, giving them a chance to improve their lives and the chance to get back on their feet, a hand UP, not a hand OUT. Many of our veterans have fallen thru the cracks to many times for too long, providing this tax credit bill to businesses in our state will be a great incentive to reach out to many more veterans and to decrease the percentage rate of unemployed and homeless veterans in Alaska, therefore, giving veterans an opportunity to improve their quality of life as well as for their families. By hiring our veterans and allowing them to learn new trades opens many doors for them and their families to begin a normal way of life, the dream they had when they entered the military to defend our freedoms, the AMERICAN DREAM. Not only will it give business owners a tax credit but in many ways for many people it will give a sense of pride and self-worth that needs to be restored today and for the business owners that tax break that many of them deserve as well. Passing such a bill as this can only benefit our local business

owners and our nation's heroes that deserve that second chance. Employing our veterans and getting them off the streets should always be a priority in our state and across our nation, as "homeless " and "veteran" should never come together in the same sentence. Veterans voluntarily gave up so much of their "normal" way of life to protect ours; allowing business owners to employ them with a tax credit will provide a sense of normalcy and appreciation back to our veterans and some businesses across our great state.

When making your decision to pass this law, please remember that all of our veterans (that are many of our business owners today), gave some, however, some gave ALL.

In addition, we are fully supportive also of the Military Training Credit bill as well. This is very important for our military; training is very important and is the very thing that provides our military with the knowledge to continue to keep our country free.

Sincerely,

Calista Anderson

US Army wife and President of Vets Helping Vets of Anchorage, Alaska