



## **Veterans Job Corps Act: The Best Bipartisan Ideas to Boost Veterans Employment**

*The principle that no veteran returning home from fighting for his or her country should have to fight for a job should be above politics. The Veterans Job Corps Act (VJCA) includes the best ideas from both Democratic and Republican Senators to make sure that our troops come home to new jobs and opportunities that will allow them to thrive. Eight provisions in the bill originated from Republican legislation, two provisions originated from Democratic legislation, and three originated from legislation offered by Democrats and Republicans.*

### **Three Provisions Originated from Legislation Offered by Both Democrats and Republicans**

**State consideration of military training in granting certifications and licenses.** Under the VJCA, to be eligible for federal grants or contracts states would have to give consideration to a veteran's active duty training and experience when approving or denying licenses and certifications. *This proposal was offered by Democratic Senator Mark Pryor and Republican Senator Mike Johanns.*

**Study on the value and utility of a skill credential registry.** VJCA authorizes a study to be conducted jointly by the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce to determine the value and utility of creating a registry of recognized post-secondary credentials valued by employers, education and training providers, economic development professionals, and other interested stakeholders. *This proposal is based on legislation offered by Democratic Senator Kay Hagan and Republican Senator Dean Heller.*

**The VJCA is fully paid for with offsets approved by members of both parties.** The savings used to cover the cost of the VJCA, including levys on tax-delinquent Medicare providers and revocation of passports for those with more than \$50,000 in unpaid taxes, were previously adopted by the Senate as part of its transportation reauthorization bill. *They passed on 74-22 bipartisan vote. [Vote 48, 3/14/12]*

### **Two Provisions Originated From Democratic Legislation**

**Establish a Veterans Job Corps to help veterans secure jobs in their communities.** The VJCA mobilizes the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, Homeland Security, Justice, and the Army Corps of Engineers to coordinate in awarding grants and creating opportunities for veterans to secure jobs in conservation, recreation and resource management, as well as finding jobs as firefighters and police officers. *This proposal is based on legislation and policies crafted by President Obama and Democratic Senators Murray and Bill Nelson.*

**Ensure funding levels for veteran employment support and disabled veteran outreach.** The VJCA would require minimum funding levels that would ensure states receive sufficient funding to support at least one disabled veterans' outreach program specialist and one local veterans' employment representative per 5,000 square miles of service territory. *This proposal is based on legislation offered by Senator Tester.*

### **Eight Provisions Originated from Republican Legislation**

**Develop a plan to enhance veterans' employment in the federal government.** The VJCA requires agencies and the Office of Personal Management (OPM) to develop a plan for exercising certain hiring authorities that are currently in law, and requires OPM to ensure that agencies appoint not fewer than 10,000 qualified veterans during the five-year period after the VJCA is enacted. *This proposal was offered by Republican Senator Richard Burr.*

**State consideration of military experience when issuing certifications and licenses.** Under the VJCA, to be eligible for federal grants or contracts states would have to give consideration to a veteran's military experience and allow a veteran to bypass training or other apprenticeship mandates *if* the veteran receives a satisfactory score on a licensing or credential examination. *This proposal was offered by Republican Senator Richard Burr.*

**Establish a pilot program to provide veterans with access to the Internet and computers to assist in job searches.** The VJCA requires the Department of Labor to make job-seeking resources available at "one-stop" assistance centers and to identify online opportunities for veteran employment. Access to the Internet and computers at one-stop centers would amplify veterans' ability to identify and apply for jobs. *This proposal was offered by Republican Senators Pat Toomey and Richard Burr.*

**Offer the military's Transition Assistance Program at offsite locations.** Eligible veterans and their spouses would be able to complete the military's Transition Assistance Program at sites outside military installations in order to make it easier to relocate in pursuit of job opportunities. *This provision was offered by Republican Senators John Boozman and Richard Burr.*

**Enhance contracting opportunities for veteran-owned small businesses.** Three distinct VJCA provisions improve access to federal contracts for veteran-entrepreneurs by amending the definition of a veteran-owned small business to include any business that is 100 percent owned, including conditional ownership, and controlled by veterans, and by allowing surviving spouses or dependents of active duty servicemembers, and surviving spouses of veterans, who take over a qualifying business to maintain veteran status for contracting preferences. *These provisions were offered by Republican Senator Richard Burr.*

**Ensuring fair treatment for veteran-entrepreneurs in community property states.** The VJCA would require the VA to treat a veteran-owned small business licensed in a community property state as if that business were licensed in a non-community property state for the purposes of determining the status and eligibility of such business for VA contracting goals and preferences. *This provision was offered by Republican Senator Richard Burr.*