



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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September 12, 2012

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
G55 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and our Auxiliaries, I would like to offer our support for your bill, *The VOW to Hire Heroes Extension Act*.

Last year, Congress recognized the enormous challenges our military men and women face when seeking civilian careers by passing the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, a comprehensive veterans' employment package that included tax incentives for employers to hire our nation's newest generation of veterans and wounded warriors.

Unfortunately, employers have reported that these tax credits, which are scheduled to expire at the end of the year, are nearly impossible to use. Your legislation seeks to fix this by simplifying the process to file for credits, allowing businesses to use the incentives as a payroll tax credit, and extending the life of the program through 2013.

Recent unemployment numbers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that unemployment among veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan continues to far outpace unemployment among civilians. To the VFW, this means that we must act quickly.

The VFW commends your efforts to help our veterans find meaningful jobs in tough economic times. We owe our brave men and women the opportunity to succeed after service, and we look forward to working with you to pass this legislation before the end of the 112th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ray C. Kelley".

Raymond C. Kelley, Director
VFW National Legislative Service