

United We Stand to Hire Veterans



Manchin-Kirk-Walz-Denham

Consolidating Duplicative Programs to Help Veterans Find Jobs

Background:

- Today's veterans returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq face an unemployment rate that is 3 percent higher than the national average.
- Within the federal government, there are programs and portals that aim to help veterans and servicemembers find employment by connecting them with public and private sector employers. But, many of these programs are duplicative and they compete for scarce resources. As a result, veterans often do not know where to go for assistance because of a lack of a single process.
- While the Departments of Defense, Labor, and Veterans Affairs are working to consolidate employment services into a single portal, there is no statutory requirement or established timetable to accomplish this.
- The bill expands upon the 2014 Senate Armed Services Committee report (113-14) that found "veterans and prospective employers have brought to our attention that there is no single portal for veterans to find jobs, and employers to post jobs. There are numerous redundant websites and portals managed by federal agencies to provide employment services to veterans."

What the Bill Would Do:

- This legislation would require the consolidation of each department's online employment services into a single portal across the federal government within one year of enactment of the law.
- The consolidated portal shall serve at least three basic functions:
 - A means to connect veterans and servicemembers with employers seeking to hire individuals with military experience.
 - A means to permit qualified employers to post job openings and seek contact with members based on their military skills and geographic preferences.
 - Provide additional resources, such as resume assistance, to assist members seeking employment.

Senators Manchin and Kirk and Representatives Denham and Walz, established the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus to shed light on the employment challenges Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard Members face as they transition to civilian life. The Caucus engages executive branch agencies, educational institutions and the private sector to help identify ways to reduce the unemployment rate of the nation's approximately 21 million veterans.