

Support Transition of Military Medics to Civilian EMS

Become a co-sponsor of S. 453, H.R. 1818

Request:

Please support assistance for military medics transitioning to civilian emergency medical services (EMS) by becoming a co-sponsor of the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2015 (S. 453, H.R. 1818). Military men and women receive some of the best technical training in emergency medicine, and prove their skills on the battlefield every day. However, when they return home, experienced military medics are often required to begin their training completely over at the most basic level to receive certification for civilian jobs, keeping veterans out of the workforce and withholding valuable medical personnel from our communities. Given the high number of separating military medic veterans, it is imperative that we provide a path toward their opportunity for civilian employment as quickly as possible.

We urge you to co-sponsor the ***Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2015***. In the Senate, contact Brenda Destro (brenda_destro@cassidy.senate.gov) of Senator Bill Cassidy's office to support S. 453. In the House, contact J.T. Mackey (JT.Mackey@mail.house.gov) in Representative Adam Kinzinger's office to support H.R. 1818.

Background:

Military veterans receive some of the best medical training and experience available when serving our country. Their sacrifices, commitment to duty, and ability to get the job done in austere environments make them exceptionally well suited for working as EMTs and paramedics in our communities upon their honorable separation from the U.S. Armed Services. Experienced military medics are often required to entirely repeat their medical training at the most basic level to receive certification to be hired for a civilian EMS job. S. 453/H.R. 1818 will help veterans return to work upon their completion of military duty and reduce unemployment among veterans.

In 2012, 10,000 military medics separated and entered the civilian workforce. This important legislation makes it easier and faster for veterans who served as military medics to earn certification as civilian emergency medical technicians, and serves to fill an essential public function in communities across our nation. According to a recent Bureau of Labor Statistic's Occupational Outlook, there will be 55, 000 new civilian EMT and paramedic jobs created between 2012 and 2022. The projected job growth rate is 23 percent, much faster than the average for all occupations.

S. 453/H.R. 1818 addresses these issues by:

- Amending the Public Health Service Act to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a demonstration program for states with a shortage of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to streamline state requirements and procedures to assist veterans who completed military EMT training to meet state EMT certification, licensure, and other requirements ;
- Determining the extent to which the requirements for the education, training, and skill level of emergency medical technicians in the State are equivalent to requirements for the education, training, and skill level of military emergency medical technicians;
- Identifying methods, such as waivers, for military emergency medical technicians to forego or meet any such equivalent State requirements; and
- Giving priority to States who demonstrate a shortage of emergency medical technicians.

Cost:

The bill requires no additional funds to be authorized to be appropriated; the bill will be offset using amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

Senate Sponsors and Co-Sponsors:

Sponsor: Sen. Cassidy, Bill [LA-6]

House Sponsors and Co-Sponsors:

Sponsor: Rep Kinzinger, Adam [IL-16]

Cosponsor:

Rep Capps, Lois [CA-24]