

Co-sponsor Transition Programs for Military Medics Returning to Civilian EMS

Talking Points for Meetings with Members of Congress

Support transition programs for our military medics to the civilian EMS workforce:

- Military men and women receive the best technical training in emergency medicine, and prove their skills on the battlefield every day. Experienced military medics are often required to begin their training completely over at the most basic level to receive certification for civilian jobs.
- Without a transition program, we are keeping veterans out of the workforce and withholding valuable medical personnel from our communities.
- According to the Bureau of Statistics in March 2015, the U.S. post 9/11 veteran unemployment rate was at 6.7 percent. 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.
- **In 2012**, the armed services trained about 10,000 combat medics, Navy corpsmen and Air Force medical technicians a year. There are 40,000 medics on active Army duty, and in the Guard and Reserves.
- The Department of Labor estimates that, by 2020, the projected job growth rate of civilian EMTs and Paramedics will be 23 percent, much faster than the average for all occupations.
- The Senate House bill requires no additional funds to be appropriated; the bill will be offset using amounts otherwise available for such purposes

S. 453/H.R. 1818 would help our returning veterans in the following ways:

- ✓ Amends 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;
- ✓ Determines 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;
- ✓ Identifies methods, such as waivers, for military emergency medical technicians to forego or meet any such equivalent State requirements; and gives priority to States who demonstrate a shortage of emergency medical technicians.

Specific Request:

- ✓ In the Senate: We ask you to co-sponsor S. 453, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2015. Contact Brenda Destro (brenda_destro@cassidy.senate.gov) of Senator Bill Cassidy's office to provide your support for the legislation.
- ✓ In the House: We ask you to co-sponsor HR. 1818, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2015. Contact J.T. Mackey (JT.Mackey@mail.house.gov) in Representative Adam Kinzinger's office to provide your support for this legislation.