

Please Support S. 453/H.R. 1818 - the Veteran Emergency Medical Technicians Support Act of 2015

Request

Please support S. 453, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2015 introduced by Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and the House companion H.R. 1818 introduced by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) and Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA), to assist military medics transitioning to civilian emergency medical services (EMS).

Background

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.

In 2012, 10,000 military medics separated and entered the civilian workforce. S. 453/H.R. 1818 would make 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 helps returning military medics 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) that streamlines state requirements and procedures for 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 that demonstrate a shortage of emergency medical technicians.

Cost

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

Current Co-Sponsors

S. 453: Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS), Sen. Mark Steven Kirk (R-IL)

H.R. 1818: Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA), Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN), Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), Rep. Tom Marino (R-PA), Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX), Rep. Ryan Costello (R-PA), Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA), Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL), Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), Rep. Randy Hultgren (R-IL), Rep. Richard Hanna (R-NY), Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX), Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY), Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-NY), Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI), Rep. Christopher Gibson (R-NY), Rep. Elizabeth Esty (D-CT), Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL), Rep. John Carter (R-TX), Rep. Alexander Mooney (R-WV), Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), Rep. Robert Latta (R-OH), Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA), Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN), Rep. James McGovern (D-MA), Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH), Rep. Richard Nugent (R-FL), Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY), Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH), Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX), Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ), Rep. Lynn Jenkins (R-KS), Rep. Martha McSally (R-AZ), Rep. David Price (D-NC), Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), Rep. John Katko (R-NY), Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA), Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA), Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Rep. Charles Boustany (R-LA), Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY), Rep. Mark Takai (D-HI), Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN), Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO), Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA), Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA), Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)

Contact

In the Senate, to co-sponsor *S. 453*, please contact Arne Owens (Arne.owens@sbcsenate.gov) in Senator Bill Cassidy's office.

In the House, to co-sponsor *H.R. 1818*, please contact Josh Baggett (josh.baggett@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Adam Kinzinger's office or Adriane Casalotti (Adriane.casalotti@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Lois Capps office.