

July 1, 2009

Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

Thank you for allowing The American Legion to participate in the Subcommittee hearing on Federal Contractor Compliance on May 14, 2009. I respectfully submit the following in response to your additional questions.

1. Why do you think that federal contractors and subcontractors are not hiring veterans?

The American Legion believes the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program (OFCCP) does not ensure employers comply with non-discrimination and affirmative action laws and regulations in hiring veterans when doing business with the Federal government because it is not a priority.

2. In your estimation are veterans being hired as a result of Section 4212 of Title 38?

The American Legion does not believe veterans are being hired as a result of Section 4212 of Title 38. Prior to the hearing on May 14, requests were made by The American Legion repeatedly to the OFCCP for written and oral documentation on the success of their office in hiring veterans. We were also concerned with their ability to monitor and track veteran hiring compliance of Federal contractors and subcontractors. We found representatives of OFCCP to be extremely uncooperative, written performance reports were denied to us, phone calls were not returned, and the only information that was provided was taken from their website. Therefore, along with negative comments made by LVER's and DVETS from around the country, The American Legion has recommended that the Federal Contractor Veterans Employment Program presently under OFCCP should be placed -- with additional funding and staffing -- under the direction of the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment Training Service (DOL-VETS). This move will provide this program with adequate oversight, as well as input and guidance from stakeholders.

Thank you for your continued commitment to America's veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Sharpe Jr., Director
National Economic Commission