The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

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August 27, 2020

The Honorable Andy Kim
United States House of Representatives
1516 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Kim:

On behalf of the nearly 2 million members of The American Legion, I am pleased to express support for H.R. 4941 - *the "Veteran Employment Transition Act"* or the *"VET Act."* This bill would provide Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) the contact information of transitioning servicemembers to disseminate information regarding benefits, employment, and events for veterans in the area in which they live.

As our nation's servicemembers transition from military service back to civilian life, they face many obstacles that often go overlooked. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) has helped bridge that divide, providing many resources and services to these servicemembers. However, one component that is often missing is the presence of representation from our nation's Veterans Service Organizations. VSOs play a crucial role in the life of a veteran, often being the lifeline of support between the veteran and the Department of Veterans Affairs. With TAP classes taking place out of the physical reach of VSOs, allowing them to communicate with our transitioning servicemembers is of critical importance.

Through American Legion Resolution No. 70: *Improve Transition Assistance Program*, urging congress to enact legislation that will enhance the new Transition Assistance Program (TAP) "for maximum effectiveness in helping servicemember transition to civilian life" we strongly support H.R. 4941, as currently written, as it allows congressionally chartered VSOs to communicate with transitioning veterans to directly disseminate critical information about services and programs regarding federal and private sector employment opportunities, GI Bill and vocational rehabilitation and employment programs. The American Legion sincerely appreciates your leadership on this legislation.

For God & Country,

James W. "Bill" Oxford

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