The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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April 26, 2016

Honorable Pat Toomey
United States Senate
SR-248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

On behalf of the over 2 million members of The American Legion I express support for your draft legislation titled, the State Outreach for Local Veterans Employment Act of 2016 (SOLVE Act).

This legislation would empower states with additional flexibility to better utilize existing federal Department of Labor (DoL) veteran's employment grants. Every state will continue to submit their Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) plans back to DoL for review and approval. This measure would ease the plan approval process for states while allowing each respective Governor to decide which state agency or department should administer the grants.

Further, it allows Governors to tailor and individualize what constitutes a "significant barrier to employment" within their respective states, while still encouraging the states to coordinate and co-locate with other state government programs to efficiently and collectively use federal and state veterans resources. The SOLVE Act is a no-cost, common sense bill which encourages good governance in the pursuit of increased employment for our nations veterans.

Through our Resolution No. 336, *Support the Restoration of the Duties and Responsibilities of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER),* The American Legion supports this legislation, as written. The SOLVE Act will provide each state the ability to apply and, if approved, direct funds where they see fit to better serve those who have proudly and honorably served our great nation.

The American Legion applauds your introduction of this legislation and thanks you for your leadership in supporting our men and women in uniform and their families.

Sincerely,

DALE BARNETT
National Commander