



**Tell Congress:
Support our Troops;
end workplace
discrimination**

HR 2654 / S 1281

Veterans & Servicemembers Employment Rights & Housing Act of 2013

The AMVETS Vision

- All American Veterans have unlimited employment opportunities;
- All employers & landlords engage in self-analysis in order to discover & break down veteran employment & housing barriers;
- Employers willingly take *positive actions* to ensure that American Veterans are appropriately employed, not simply because they make outstanding employees, but also out of respect for their service to this nation.

The AMVETS Goals

- Eradicate all forms of invidious discrimination experienced by American veterans;
- Promote protected status for our nation's heroes;
- Veterans should be afforded every form of support and opportunity to become gainfully employed in the civilian workforce;
- Enhance veteran access and equity in employment opportunities by making employers more aware of the value of actively hiring veterans;
- Provide legal recourse to veterans experiencing employment discrimination.

The Issue

- Veterans are a true minority since fewer than 7% of Americans have ever served in the Armed Forces & less than 1% serve today;
- While other groups enjoy certain protections & advantages under the law, those who have served & fought for their country currently enjoy no such comprehensive legal consideration;
- Veterans are frequently at an employment/housing disadvantage in comparison to non-veterans;
- Employment & housing are often the first obstacles veterans must overcome during transition;
- Employment is an integral facet of a veterans overall continuum of well-being;
- The negative effects of unemployment are especially devastating to veterans who may also be suffering from additional stressors such as: repeated deployments; marital discord; domestic violence; substance abuse; depression/PTSD; homelessness and suicidal thoughts;



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The Issue (cont.)

- Veterans must overcome negative press about the effects & repercussions of prolonged wars, such as Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) & other mental health issues;
- The ending of the draft & the lingering ill-will toward Vietnam-era veterans & the infrequent, but no less reprehensible, reports of atrocities performed by a small number of American soldiers may unconsciously leave negative feelings in the hearts & minds of employers;
- The sensational headlines & negative media coverage over the last decade of war cannot help but contribute to growing concerns & misinformed prejudices among prospective employers/landlords

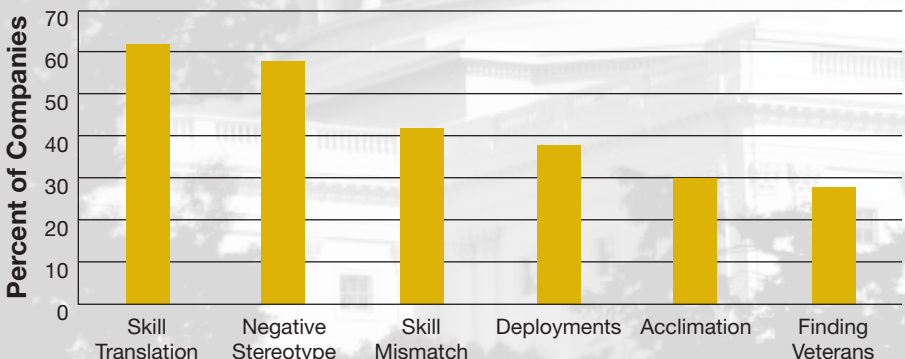
Recommendation

In acknowledgement of the tremendous sacrifices our veterans have made for this nation, Congress & the Administration should enact H.R. 2654/S. 1281 to ensure that veterans enjoy the same legally mandated, non-discriminatory access to housing, employment & training opportunities as other deserving individuals.

Current Non-Discrimination Categories

- Race
- Color
- Creed
- Sex
- Age
- National Origin
- Marital Status
- Physical or Mental Disability
- Sexual Orientation
- Genetic Information

Why Companies Might Not Hire Veterans



Source: Veteran employment interviews, Center for a New American Security.