

H.R.3963 (DELBENE) – MANUFACTURING JOBS FOR VETERANS ACT

POSITION: The Chamber's Defense, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee voted to SUPPORT H.R.3963 on August 1, 2018. The Chamber's Public Policy Committee voted to SUPPORT H.R.3963 on August 14, 2018.

RATIONALE: The Defense, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee voted to SUPPORT H.R.3963 because it would bring jobs to veterans, and has the ability to do so in California.

STATUS: H.R.3963 was introduced by Rep. Suzan DelBene [D-WA-1] on October 5, 2017. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on October 5, 2017.

SUMMARY

H.R.3963 establishes a pilot program to encourage the hiring of veterans in manufacturing positions.

INDUSTRY/IES IMPACTED

The industries that could be directly impacted are: imports and exports, cargo, shipbuilding, electronics, automotive, pharmaceuticals, food and beverage, metals, and more.

SUPPORTERS

- Rep. Scott Peters, [D-CA-52] (Original Cosponsor)
- Representatives from the following states: RI, WA, NY, TN, IL, DC, OR, OH, AZ, NM, NJ, MO, PA, WI, MN, GA, MA
- The American Legion
- AMVETS
- Association of the United States Navy

OPPONENTS

None known

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 370,000 veterans are unemployed nationwide. According to the bill author, H.R.3963 "would expand access to skills training and apprenticeships for U.S. veterans in manufacturing career pathways, ensure veterans have the tools needed to translate their military skills to the civilian workforce and encourage manufacturers to recruit, hire and train our nation's returning heroes."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

Establishing another bureaucracy within the federal government won't ensure veterans get hired. Additionally, \$50 million is a drop in the bucket when it comes to what it takes to stand up manufacturing programs in the U.S.

MORE INFORMATION

H.R.3963 directs the Department of Labor (DOL) to execute a five year Veterans Manufacturing Employment Program, as part of DOL's Veteran's Workforce Investment Program. This program will award competitive grants to three states for establishing and administrating a State Manufacturing Employment Program. The state program would create grants to manufacturing employers and labor-management organizations that provide training, apprenticeships, and certification classes to eligible veterans.

Each state would have the opportunity to submit an application to the Secretary of Labor who would then award grants to three states. Due to the high number of veterans in California, the state could have a good chance of winning the grant and leveraging these funds.

\$10 million per year would be appropriated for five years to carry out the pilot program.