



NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

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May 25, 2012

The Honorable Jeff Denham
1605 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Denham:

Thank you for introducing H.R. 4155, Veteran Skills to Jobs Act, which NGAUS strongly supports.

As you are aware, for the last 10 years, the National Guard has faced increased call-ups and multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, in addition to responding to natural disasters at home. While many members of the National Guard return to their civilian jobs after deployment, a growing number of our members do not have jobs awaiting them. While the unemployment rate for all veterans is 7.7 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for National Guard and Reserve members is a staggering 20 percent, according to Civilian Employment Information and the Status of Forces Survey for the Reserve Components.

The military occupations of our National Guard members provide them with transferable skills for private sector careers, including emergency medical technicians, state-tested nursing assistants, certified nursing assistants, registered nurses and commercial truck drivers. NGAUS believes that state licensing processes must recognize the advanced skills of our highly trained veterans when they return home to practice a civilian profession that they have already mastered. Governmental agencies—federal, state, or local—grant licenses to individuals to practice a specific occupation, such as a medical license for doctors. State or federal laws or regulations define the standards that individuals must meet to become licensed. Licenses are typically mandatory. Most all licenses are issued by state governments however the Federal government does issue a number of licenses most notably in the aerospace, communications and maritime sectors.

H.R. 4155 would mirror these state legislative efforts. Specifically it would direct the head of each Federal department or agency to ensure that an applicant for any Federal license who has received relevant training while serving as a member of the Armed Forces would satisfy the requirements for the license unless the training was did not meet the license requirements.

We look forward to working with you to ensure this important legislation becomes law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gus Hargett". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Gus Hargett
Major General, USA, (Ret)
President