

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3467

To expand and extend counseling and referral programs that minimize recidivism by reintegrating at-risk veterans into meaningful employment.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 2007

Mr. YARMUTH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To expand and extend counseling and referral programs that minimize recidivism by reintegrating at-risk veterans into meaningful employment.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Second Chance for
5 America’s Veterans Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) States average a 60 percent rate of recidi-
9 vism among veterans.

1 (2) As a demonstration program in seven
2 States, the Incarcerated Veterans Transition Pro-
3 gram (IV-TP) has cut recidivism among its veterans
4 by 90 percent.

5 (3) Of the veterans engaged in the national IV-
6 TP program, 90 percent were moved into permanent
7 housing and 72 percent became gainfully employed.

8 (4) IV-TP saves taxpayers millions of dollars a
9 year in incarceration costs and stimulates local job
10 growth and economic development. In Kentucky's
11 IV-TP, for example, studies show that up to 166 in-
12 dividuals from the program would have re-offended
13 and returned to a correctional institution at a finan-
14 cial cost of \$1.6 million per year. The aggregate an-
15 nual wages of the veterans assisted by the Kentucky
16 IV-TP program is more than \$2.1 million.

17 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR REFER-**
18 **RAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES TO ASSIST**
19 **AT-RISK VETERANS TRANSITIONING INTO**
20 **THE WORKPLACE.**

21 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Vet-
22 erans Affairs (hereinafter in this section referred to as the
23 “Secretary”) shall establish a workforce reentry program
24 for eligible veterans consisting of job referral, counseling,

1 and other services deemed necessary by the Secretary to
2 minimize recidivism and improve job placement.

3 (b) LOCATION OF PROGRAM.—The program shall be
4 carried out in at least twenty-four locations equitably dis-
5 tributed within the United States. One location shall be
6 a penal institution under the jurisdiction of the Bureau
7 of Prisons.

8 (c) SCOPE OF PROGRAM.—

9 (1) To the extent practicable, the program shall
10 provide both referral and counseling services, includ-
11 ing assistance with job training and placement (in-
12 cluding job readiness), housing, health care, and
13 other benefits to assist eligible veterans in the tran-
14 sition from institutional living.

15 (2)(A) To the extent that referral or counseling
16 services are provided at a location under the pro-
17 gram, the Secretary must ensure that referral serv-
18 ices are administered in person preceding the date of
19 release or discharge from incarceration. Counseling
20 services must begin after an eligible veteran is dis-
21 charged from incarceration. The Secretary may de-
22 termine an acceptable period of time to begin refer-
23 ral and counseling services.

24 (B) The Secretary may, as part of the program,
25 furnish to officials of penal institutions outreach in-

1 formation with respect to referral and counseling
2 services for presentation to veterans in the custody
3 of such officials during the 18-month period that
4 precedes such date of release or discharge.

5 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may
6 distribute funds to eligible entities to carry out the
7 referral and counseling services required under the
8 program. Eligible entities may include: Relevant
9 State agencies, non-profit organizations, or State
10 and local workforce investment boards as defined in
11 sections 111 and 117 of the Workforce Investment
12 Act. Eligible entities must have demonstrated com-
13 petence in managing grants and the capability to
14 provide referrals to other service providers.

15 (4) In developing the program, the Secretary
16 shall consult with officials of the U.S. Bureau of
17 Prisons, officials of penal institutions of States and
18 political subdivisions of States, and such other offi-
19 cials as the Secretary determines appropriate.

20 (d) DURATION.—The Secretary shall have authority
21 to make grants for fiscal years 2008 to 2011.

22 (e) EVALUATION.—Each program shall provide a re-
23 port to the Secretary containing all relevant program data
24 including percentage of veterans moved into permanent
25 housing, percentage of veterans gainfully employed, and

1 rates of recidivism among participants. Grantees must
2 submit an evaluation exactly three years after grants are
3 awarded.

4 (f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “eligible
5 veteran” means a veteran who—

6 (1) is a resident of a penal institution or an in-
7 stitution that provides long-term care for mental ill-
8 ness; and

9 (2) is at risk for homelessness absent referral
10 and counseling services provided under the program
11 (as determined under guidelines established by the
12 Secretary).

13 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000 for each of fis-
15 cal years 2008 through 2011 to carry out this program.

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