



March 21, 2017

The Honorable Kathleen Rice
United States House of Representatives
1508 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy, we would like to pledge our support for H.R. 974, the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act. This bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs in awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or services, to give preference to offerors based on the percentage of the offeror's full-time employees who are veterans. The VA is authorized to debar from VA contracting for at least five years any offeror determined to have willfully and intentionally misrepresented the veteran status of its employees.

The VA establishes long-term contracts with private businesses for medical equipment, supplies, services, and more. Currently, the VA gives preference for these contracts to veteran-owned small businesses; however, it does not give preference to businesses that actively employ veterans. This bill would change that and allow the VA to consider the proportion of veterans employed by a prospective contractor when awarding federal contracts.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the Military and Veteran community by working to improve the lives and careers of those who served our great nation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 703-548-5800 or at michael.little@ausn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Joseph Little". To the right of the signature, there is a handwritten note in blue ink that says "ABH²(AW/Sea) USNR".

Michael J. Little
Director of Legislative Affairs