Veterans Employment and Education Commission Final Report 08//27/2023

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Items of note from guest speakers:

1. The current unemployment rate for veterans is 2.6% nationally compared to 5.3% of the general population.
2. Current unemployment rate for African American Veterans is 12%
3. As of 2022, there were 33, 129 homeless veterans – this is down 55% from 2009.
4. 28% of all homeless veterans are considered “chronically homeless.”
5. 89% of homeless veterans are male.
6. Homeless veterans that have Other Than Honorable (OTH) discharges are prevented from getting VA transitional housing, HUD VASH vouchers or grant per diem programs. There is legislation pending to make homeless veterans with OTH discharges eligible for the regardless of discharge type.
7. Currently there is a shortage of 300,000 healthcare workers in long-term care facilities nationwide. The Biden Administration wants to increase the healthcare work ratio to per patients in nursing homes with if passes will increase the shortage to 500,000.
8. The passage of the Digital Act (2022) for VA education benefits has reduced the waiting time for approval to less than 24 hours vs weeks and sometimes months for previous approvals.

Resolutions:

Res # 13 Title: Option to provide contact information to veterans’ service organizations at discharge or retirement.

Resolve: That all active duty that are retiring or ending military service be given paperwork to allow them to volunteer their contact information to the American Legion.

Status: Passed

Res # 14 Title: Preserve Housing Benefits for Online Education

Resolve: Remove barriers that hinder educational and professional development.

Status: Passed

Res # 18 Title: Support 119A Qualified Business Income (QBI) deduction

Resolve: The American Legion supports reauthorizing, enhancing, and permanently authorizing the 199 A QBI deduction

Status: Passed

Res # 19 Title: Enhancing the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for veterans’ workers and families.

Resolve: The American Legion supports reauthorizing and enhancing the WOTC for the benefit of veterans, services members, and their families

Status: Passed

Res # 20 Title: Tax relief for veterans and military families

Resolve: The American Legion supports tax reducing policies and opposes tax increases that cause financial strain to veterans and service members, and their families.

Status: Passed

Res # 28 Titled: Accelerated training in Defense manufacturing.

Resolve: That the DOD and the other service branches partner with the members of the National Defense Industrial base to develop similar programs in support of their critical needs for a specialized workforce that provides employment opportunities for our veterans in support of our national security

Status: Passed