



COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY
Lamar Smith, Chairman

For Immediate Release
November 15, 2017

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Statement from Neal Dunn (R-Fla.)

Full Committee Markup

Rep. Dunn: H.R. 4223, the Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act, is about helping expand veterans' job and education opportunities in the sciences.

The bill requires the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop a veterans' outreach plan and publish data on veterans' participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields in its annual "Indicators" report.

The bill also updates the NSF Noyce Teacher Scholarship program, fellowship programs and cyber grant programs to include outreach to veterans.

Additionally, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy is tasked with overseeing an interagency working group to examine how to increase veteran participation in STEM career fields, including addressing any barriers for service members and their spouses.

In the next five years, between one and 1.5 million members of the U.S. Armed Forces will leave the military, according to the Department of Defense. Many of these veterans will be seeking new careers; by a great margin, veterans cite finding employment as their number one need when returning home.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, occupations in STEM is projected to grow to more than 9 million between 2012 and 2022, an increase of about one million jobs.

Research shows that many military veterans have skills and training that align with STEM careers, particularly in information technology (IT). However, research also shows veterans face many barriers as they re-enter the workforce, including a lack of formal STEM education, career guidance and the difficult task of transferring military credits to college credits.

Our nation's veterans deserve every opportunity to transition to a healthy and successful civilian life. This bill will help our service members to continue to serve our nation in new ways by filling 21st century jobs and keeping America on the cutting edge of innovation.

I thank Mr. Takano, the Ranking Vice Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee that we both have the privilege to serve on, for co-sponsoring this bipartisan legislation. And I salute my fellow veterans on the committee who joined me in introducing this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your support as well.

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