



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

801 18th Street NW  
Washington DC 20006-3517  
(O) 202.872.1300  
(TTY) 202.416.7622  
(F) 202.785.4452  
[www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)

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Chartered by the Congress of the United States

May 28, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Senate Health, Education, Labor  
And Pensions Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Paralyzed Veterans of America [PVA] applauds the introduction of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act [WIOA]. PVA is the nation's only Congressionally-chartered veterans' service organization solely devoted to representing veterans with spinal cord injuries and/or disease. Our members are among those veterans with some of the most significant barriers to employment and this legislation is a long overdue modernization of the nation's critically important workforce development system.

The legislation contains several major provisions of interest to the veteran community including:

- Representation on state and local workforce boards of organizations serving veterans with barriers to employment.
- Requirements that state workforce plans specify how they will implement priority of service for veterans.
- Funding to help veterans and people with disabilities navigate multiple service programs and activities.
- Looser Job Corps eligibility rules for veterans within six months of discharge.
- Assurances that veterans with disabilities will be better served by state vocational rehabilitation programs.

As a bipartisan, bicameral agreement, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is a significant achievement. We know that it reflects considerable time and effort on your part and appreciate the persistence of your committees in seeking common ground to produce legislation that will benefit thousands of Americans, including many veterans and people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Carl Blake  
Acting Associate Executive Director  
Government Relations