

<Members of House Appropriations Committee>

Dear <>

The undersigned organizations wish to thank you and your colleagues for including funding within the FY 2020 Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) budget to establish a Disabled Veteran Program (DVP) “to address the high unemployment and low labor force participation rate of veterans with service-connected and non-service-connected disabilities. The DVP will help increase employment and advancement opportunities for veterans with disabilities by working with federal, state, and private partners to promote the hiring of veterans with disabilities, improve coordination of available employment services and supports, and to identify and share employment best practices for hiring, retaining, and advancing veterans with disabilities in the workforce.”

While very modest in amount, the \$300,000 appropriated will ensure that veterans with significant disabilities will have an advocate within VETS to monitor and highlight their employment struggles, actively promote job opportunities for veterans with disabilities and coordinate and press for federal data, research, and services aimed at addressing their ongoing challenges. We are grateful to you for recognizing the importance of this initiative and leaving no veteran behind.

Sincerely,

ACCSES

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Music Therapy Association

American Therapeutic Recreation Association

AMVETS

Blinded Veterans Association

Easterseals

Military Order of the Purple Heart

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Disability Rights Network

National Military Family Association

Paralyzed Veterans of America

The Retired Enlisted Association

Veterans Education Success

VetsFirst

Vietnam Veterans of America

Wounded Warrior Project