



January 18, 2012

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger (IL-16)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1221 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Kinzinger,

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), we applaud and fully support your bill H.R. 235, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2013, which would amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to States to streamline State requirements and procedures for veterans with military emergency medical training to become civilian emergency medical technicians. We take great pride in voicing our support for such veteran centric legislation and extend our sincerest gratitude for your effort.

As it currently stands, most states do not view military medical training as sufficient in the qualification and licensing procedure for an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) career. This leads to the majority of transitioning military medic servicemembers being required to re-train, at sometimes the most basic level, for one to two years. This one to two year process can cost upwards of the equivalent of two years tuition in a state accredited institution of higher learning. Veterans going through this process lose not only the money spent on ever increasing higher educational costs, but the time and availability for employment during that one to two year span.

H.R. 235 would serve to help both transitioning servicemembers and their communities by better capitalizing on the training a servicemember goes through in order to serve his or her country. In addition, identifying the service of these military medics who have served in combat operations demonstrates that such sacrifice should not only be appreciated and honored, but seen as pre-certification like training. Such training is more than sufficient, in regards to the most basic and sometimes intermediary training.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the military and veteran communities by introducing legislation that would ease servicemembers transitioning into the medical care workforce. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (703) 548-5800.

Sincerely,

Anthony A. Wallis  
Legislative Director, AUSN