

National Veteran Small Business Coalition



“One Cause, One Voice”

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Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Smith and Ranking Members Reed and Thornberry:

The National Veteran Small Business Coalition (NVSBC) is the nation's largest non-profit business association representing veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses in the federal marketplace as prime and subcontractors. I want to express our support for the “Verification Alignment and Service-Disabled Business Adjustment Act as currently part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2021.

Currently, Department of Veterans Affairs is the only federal agency requiring veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses to go thru a vigorous “verification” process in order to be able to participate in VA contract opportunities. NVSBC supports the move of the VA’s “verification program” to the Small Business Administration (SBA) and “verification” requirement be applied to all federal agencies. Unfortunately, we have in this country many who will “self-represent” themselves as veteran-owned and controlled small businesses to obtain government contracts when in fact they are not! This is nothing more than another form of “Stolen Valor”! In fact, a recent audit by the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General found that DoD awarded almost one billion dollars to fraudulent veteran-owned small businesses. (DoDIG-2020-063, published February 18, 2020). A government-wide “verification” program will stop this fraud.

The verification program and VETS First works at VA. VA set-aside contracts for veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses flow to legitimate firms. As the second largest federal department, VA’s efforts demonstrate the scalability and feasibility or repeating success in the largest federal department, DoD, as well as small departments and agencies. The critical step to bring all federal government contract opportunities into compliance and assure veterans and their families survive, grow and sustain economic success is to transfer all authority and responsibility from VA to SBA and mandate the “verification program” government-wide.

Respectfully,

Scott Jensen
Executive Director