

# ***PROTECT VETS ACT OF 2014***

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*To protect employment & training services for America's veterans*

## **Problem**

On April 2014, DOL issued a guidance letter that

- denies 70% of veterans access to employment coaches,
- **includes some disabled veterans** whose disabilities are not deemed service-connected.

## **Background**

Congress provides specialized employment coaches for veterans:

- Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs)
- Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs)
  - Statute directs DVOPs to provide services to any veteran
  - Establishes an order of priority: (1) special disabled veterans, (2) other disabled veterans, and (3) other eligible veterans

## **DOL Guidance Letter**

- Forbids LVERS from performing any casework with veterans, even if they have extra time
- Forbids DVOPS from seeing 70% of veterans, even if they have time
  - DVOPs must turn away veterans seeking help, and instead go into the field and search for veterans who meet DOL's criteria

## **The Protect VETS Act States:**

- The Secretary of Labor may not impose additional restrictions beyond those in statute on (1) the services provided by LVERs, or (2) the persons who may be assisted by DVOPs, and
- LVERs may provide individual casework to veterans.
- DVOPs may conduct initial assessments of individuals, to ensure they are not misclassified

## **Endorsed by:**

- American Legion, VFW, VVA, AmVets, IAVA, Vets First, VETS Group, Inc., and Paralyzed Veterans of America

## **Cost**

- The Protect VETS Act is budget neutral