

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Measure Sponsored By Plaskett Making It More Attractive For Employers To Hire Veterans Gains Bipartisan Support In Congress

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Freshman Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett is hopeful about the future of her "Hire-a-Hero Act," as the measure has been receiving bipartisan support in Congress.

That's according to a press release the congresswoman issued on Wednesday, adding that the issue of veterans care should not be a partisan issue, but rather "something we all have in common."

"I am pleased with the support for the 'Hire-a-Hero Act' to this point. Working in the best interest of our veterans is not a partisan issue and is something we all have in common, no matter who we caucus with. I thank both my democratic and republican colleagues who have signed on as co-sponsors and ask for the support of those who haven't signed on as yet," Plaskett said.

Plaskett's Hire-A-Hero Act will amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow employers a work opportunity tax credit (WOTC) for hiring a member of the National Guard or Ready Reserve, and make the WOTC credit permanent with respect to the hiring of qualified veterans and members of the National Guard and Reserve component.

The Hire-A-Hero Act of 2015 has received strong support from the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS). In a letter to Congresswoman Plaskett, Major General Gus Hargett, USA (Ret.), President of NGAUS said, "On behalf of the more than 45,000 members of the National Guard Association and the nearly 500,000 soldiers and airmen of the National Guard thank you for your commitment to the members of the National Guard and thanks for your leadership."

Plaskett is a member of the House National Guard and Reserve Caucus and cosponsored legislation earlier this year to ensure veterans access to health care.

H.R. 572, the Veterans Access to Community Care Act 2015 was introduced to ensure Veterans could access private healthcare regardless if the VA medical facility could provide the services to a veteran.