



June 18, 2013

Honorable Tim Kaine
B40C Dirksen Senate office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S 700 – Troop Talent Act of 2013

Dear Senator Kaine:

On behalf of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) I am pleased to offer our support for your legislation, S. 700, the “Troop Talent Act of 2013” and thank you for your efforts to provide our nation’s veterans with expanded opportunities to align their military specialty skills with civilian credentials or licenses.

It is imperative that we, as a nation, do everything possible to assure our returning veterans the opportunity to transfer their military skills and experience to a private sector career. Unfortunately, many veterans find that when they attempt to transfer these skills, a credential or license is required; a barrier to becoming employed as soon as possible.

While it is true that many of these careers are in the information technology field, the field of occupational safety and health is also a growing field; one where credentialing and certification is also in many cases deemed necessary. A 2011 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health report stated that employers need to hire 25,000 occupational safety and health professionals in the next five years, yet only 12,000 are expected to be available. A considerable number of our military are working in these fields. S. 700 would provide an easier means for these veterans to become employed in a growing field when they return to the private sector.

In reviewing S. 700, AIHA agrees with suggestions recently made by the Institute for Hazardous Materials Management:

- “There should be a definition of accredited credentials that mentions the need for any license or credential to be supported by a rigorous third party assessment.” Today, there are more than 350 titles in occupational safety and health, yet fewer than 50 of these titles are awarded by accredited organizations.
- “There should be no need (as found on page 12, line 12 of S. 700) to perform audits of licensure and certification programs if these programs are provided by accredited organizations, themselves accredited by nationally recognized accreditation bodies.”

In conclusion, AIHA supports S. 700 and stands ready to assist you in advancing professional career opportunities for our returning veterans. If I, or AIHA, can be of any assistance to you and your efforts, do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you again for your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara J. Dawson".

Barbara J. Dawson, CIH, CSP
AIHA President

cc: AIHA Board of Directors
Peter O'Neil, Executive Director
Aaron Tripler, Director Government Affairs