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# U.S. House of Representatives

## COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

January 29, 2014

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
 Comptroller General of the United States  
 U.S. Government Accountability Office  
 441 G Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

Recently, the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 1412, as amended, the Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013. The provisions of this bill would build on an existing, yet little known and under-utilized, on-the-job training (OJT) program run by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This program assists veterans by allowing them to use their educational benefits they earned through their military service, to learn a trade or skill through participation in an approved apprenticeship or on-the-job training program.

Although the employment picture for veterans has improved, the unemployment rate for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan is still far too high. The Bureau of Labor Statistics cites that in December of 2013, the unemployment rate for these veterans was 7.3%. We need to maximize work opportunities for these veterans by promoting the benefits of OJT programs.

Therefore, we formally request a Government Accountability Office study into the effectiveness and potential for improvement of OJT programs offered through the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill. Specifically, we would like your study to focus on the following questions:

- What is known about the performance and effectiveness of the OJT Program?
- What steps, if any, have been taken to highlight and promote the OJT program to Post 9-11 G.I. bill participants, transitioning servicemembers, and employers?
- What challenges, if any, do these groups face in learning about and using the OJT program?
- What coordination exists between the VA and state approving agencies to connect returning veterans to local employers seeking employees through approved OJT programs?

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Evan Armstrong with Congressman Coffman at 202-225-7882 or Jon Clark with the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs at 202-225-3527.

Sincerely,



Bill Flores  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity



Mike Coffman  
Member  
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity