

**November 16, 2011**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) today voted in favor of legislation that will reduce the number of unemployed veterans in America. The VOW to Hire Heroes Act is a comprehensive, bipartisan bill that addresses the high unemployment rates among veterans. This veteran's legislation was added to a House bill that repeals the 3 percent withholding provision for businesses that contract with federal, state, and local governments.

**"This legislation addresses two of the most important issues our country faces – high unemployment among veterans and tax increases on businesses,"** Congressman Altmire said. **"In addition to lifting a burdensome tax increase on businesses, we are providing incentives for putting America's heroes back to work when they return from their service. This tax credit to help veterans find steady footing in a sluggish economy was one of the most important pieces of President Obama's jobs package. This legislation is proof that Congress can work together on some of the most important issues our country faces, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on issues like this that matter most."**

The VOW to Hire Heroes Act:

- Expands education and training with up to one year of additional Montgomery GI Bill benefits to qualify for jobs in high-demand sectors, while also providing disabled veterans up to one year of additional Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits;
- Improves the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) to provide service members with the basic understanding of how to gain employment in a competitive job market;
- Facilitates a seamless transition from active duty service to veterans status by allowing service members to qualify for veteran's status while still on active duty when applying for positions with the federal government;
- Translates military skills and training into civilian sector specialties, making it easier for veterans to get licenses and certification; and
- Provides tax credits to businesses of up to \$2,400 for hiring veterans who are unemployed for more than four weeks up to six months, \$5,600 for hiring veterans who have been looking for a job for more than six months, and \$9,600 for hiring veterans with service-connected disabilities who have been unemployed for at least six of the last twelve months.

The entire package passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 422-0, and is now awaiting the president's signature. Congressman Altmire spoke on the House floor about the provisions in this legislation. To view the floor speech, please [click here](#) .