

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** VETS-2017-0001  
HIRE Vets Medallion Program

**Comment On:** VETS-2017-0001-0001  
HIRE Vets Medallion Program

**Document:** VETS-2017-0001-0006  
Comment on FR Doc # 2017-17249

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## General Comment

Ladies & Gentlemen of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service - Thanks for this opportunity for comment on the HIRE Vets Medallion Award\* Program from the DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Veterans' Employment and Training Service under Docket No. VETS-2017-0001.

So, with an essential start-up expense for the HIRE VETS program on the U.S. taxpayers of approximately \$1,000,000, civilian companies will have to meet all kinds of paperwork and personnel arrangements to not only hire a veteran, but moreover to justify and report back to the government all the requirements that are presented in these intended regulations. The companies will also have the privilege of paying an unknown application fee\*\*, at the end of which, they might get a pretty paper certificate and digital copy\*\*\* of a "Medallion" IF they win the award by selection, and later, every-other-year after their first award.

Questions and Observations:

If you were a company, would you hire veterans and ignore the HireVets program?

Why would a company take the extra time, paperwork, personnel and effort to spend extra money for the HireVets program?

Why not promote the hiring of veterans directly without any special encumbrance imposed by a

governmental agency?

Why not treat a veteran like he wants to be treated, like a normal American?

Why isn't this program under the Veterans Administration - aren't they specialized in working with veterans?

The Secretary of Labor selects each award and the award is a piece of paper.

Application fees are non-refundable, no matter what is the outcome of the award selections each year.

Monies from the application fees go to a mandated US Treasury fund. (Remember the Social Security Fund?)

The "HIRE Vets Medallion Award Fund" is used\*\* to "cover the costs associated with carrying out" the program.

Whose discretion is it to verify the proper usage of the "HIRE Vets Medallion Award Fund" and its accountability?

Will there be public transparency (Excel spreadsheet) for all and every transaction in and out of this Fund?

Are we worried more about the "program" being sustainable or the actual veterans being sustainable?

Did you know that EPA's pesticide registration applications were free at first, then, as time went on, the registrants had to pay more & more to counter balance the bureaucratic personnel expense?

A company already gets an award (without government intervention) if the veteran they hire does a good job.

The veteran gets an award by earning a suitable wage while keeping working well at his job.

Did you know that a civilian company can broadcast their own support of veterans without government's help?

Did you know that a civilian company can place all kinds of information in their Annual Report?

Did you know an Annual Report or a good marketing department are able to boast well of their veteran company employees?

Did you know that if a company is treating its veterans well, such good local news travels better than long-distant government news?

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Valasek

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Footnotes:

\* SEC. 2. HIRE VETS MEDALLION AWARD PROGRAM. (copied from H.R.244 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, 115th Congress (2017-2018) found at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/244> .

\*\* SEC. 5. APPLICATION FEE AND FUNDING.

(a) Fund Established. There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be designated the "HIRE Vets Medallion Award Fund". Amounts appropriated to the fund pursuant to subsection (c) shall remain available until expended.

(b) Fee Authorized. The Secretary may assess a reasonable fee on employers that apply for receipt of a HIRE Vets Medallion Award and the Secretary shall deposit such fees into the HIRE Vets Medallion Award Fund. The Secretary shall establish the amount of the fee such that the amounts collected as fees and deposited into the Fund are sufficient to cover the costs

associated with carrying out this division.

(c) Use Of Funds. Amounts in the HIRE Vets Medallion Award Fund shall be available, subject to appropriation, to the Secretary to carry out the HIRE Vets Medallion Award Program.

\*\*\* SEC. 3. SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS. ----- (c) Design By Secretary. The Secretary shall establish the shape, form, and design of each HIRE Vets Medallion Award, except that the Award shall be in the form of a certificate and shall state the year for which it was awarded."

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