

Support for Senators Heitkamp, Moran, Boozman and King's *Connect with Veterans Act*

“The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the nation’s 3,069 counties support the ‘Connect with Veterans Act,’” **said Sallie Clark, President of the National Association of Counties.** “This bill would enable counties to more successfully reintegrate veterans, allow them to connect with their communities and provide benefits and services to facilitate the transition from military to civilian life and into the local workforce. We appreciate Senator Heitkamp's leadership on this important issue and efforts to help counties support our nation’s transitioning service members.”

- *Sallie Clark, President, National Association of Counties*

“As more and more service members transition into life as veterans, the Connect With Veterans Act becomes even more important – for them, their families, employers and the communities where they live and work,” **said Michael Cooper, the president of the Association of Defense Communities.** “Thanks to the leadership of Senators Heitkamp and Moran, an issue that has been a priority for communities, states and regions across the country is becoming a reality and will have significant impact in the lives of those who have served our nation in uniform.”

- *Michael Cooper, President, Association of Defense Communities*

“Our brave veterans who are coming home to North Dakota after serving their country often have difficulty transitioning back into the communities they call home – but we can and we must do more to change that,” **said Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney.** “For years I’ve worked with Senator Heitkamp and know how deep her commitment is to making sure our returning servicemembers have access to the employment opportunities, and the health services they need as they return to civilian life. That’s why I’m proud to support her bipartisan effort to connect our local communities and VA with our newest veterans – together and with the help of Senator Heitkamp’s Connect with Veterans Act, we can help make sure our veterans always have a supportive, embracing home community in the Fargo area and across North Dakota.”

- *Mayor Tim Mahoney, City of Fargo*

“Veterans need and deserve every chance to rejoin the civilian workforce after their military service,” **said Mark J. Jantzer, Chairman Minot’s Task Force 21.** “Senator Heitkamp’s bill provides connection to job opportunities which is not only the right thing to do, but is a help to business owners/employers.”

- *Mark J. Jantzer, Chairman, Task Force 21 (Minot)*

“Newly returning servicemembers are important members of our community – and we want them to remain members of our community,” **said Tom Ford, Coordinator of the Base Realignment Impact Committee (BRIC)/Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) for the Grand Forks Region.** “Employers are in need of skilled job seekers to fill positions with highly qualified individuals, and those needs are not being met. Senator Heitkamp’s Connect with Veterans Act can bridge the gap between new veterans and employers in need while ensuring our military families remain a vital part of our community. Veterans have received the best training possible through their time in the military and offer the ability to fill a large need in our communities. Our Veterans have given so much, some have given all; we owe it to them to do all we can to assist them with their integration back into civilian life – Senator Heitkamp’s Connect With Veterans Act is a key component in doing just that.”

- *Tom Ford, Coordinator, Grand Forks Region Base Realignment Impact Committee (BRIC)/Enhanced Use Lease (EUL)*

“For decades, America has not been prepared to support veterans returning home from combat zones,” **said Retired Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Robert Black, the CEO/Administrator of Linton Hospital and Clinics.** “But thanks to the efforts of Senators Heitkamp and Moran, we’re starting to build out those needed networks on a local level. By passing their *Connect with Veterans Act*, we can provide the leg up our returning servicemembers deserve when they return to their local communities by making sure they’re able to connect with good jobs that are meaningful to them, and access the mental health services they need.”

- *Retired Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Robert Black, CEO/Administrator, Linton Hospital & Clinics*