



Carolyn Lee  
Executive Director

July 8, 2019

U.S. Senate  
Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators,

On behalf of The Manufacturing Institute (MI), the education and workforce partner of the National Association of Manufacturers, I am writing to urge you to support S. 153 Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act, introduced by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL).

For seven consecutive quarters, manufacturers' top challenge has been the ability to attract and retain a qualified workforce, as noted in the NAM's Manufacturers Outlook Survey. Meanwhile, every year more than 200,000 U.S. service members return to civilian life. These men and women who put their talents to work in a mission larger than themselves are accustomed to working in teams toward common goals and in possession of skills and talents that would make excellent additions to any manufacturing team. However, veterans need to be equipped with the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills to help them succeed in a 21st-century workplace. There are great career opportunities for transitioning service members, veterans and military spouses in manufacturing and at the MI, we have the privilege of working with them through our Heroes MAKE America Initiative. As such, we welcome any legislative effort that would make strides toward arming veterans with the skills and qualifications to excel in manufacturing careers.

The Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act directs the National Science Foundation to encourage veterans to study and pursue careers in STEM in coordination with other federal agencies and submit a plan to Congress for enhancing veterans' participation and outreach in scholarship and fellowship opportunities at NSF. This legislation will do its part to help provide the support veterans need in order to succeed in STEM fields, prepare those who have served to excel in their next career and allow manufacturers to recruit top-quality talent so that they can compete in a global economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
  
Carolyn Lee