

LETTER TO YOUR STATE LAWMAKERS

Send one to your state senator and one to each of your state representatives. Find them at openstates.org/find_your_legislator or your legislature's website. Email works well; most legislators list an address on their page. Fill in the highlighted parts; a personal sentence or two matters more than anything else in the letter.

Subject: A bill to count military service for state jobs

Dear [Senator / Representative] [Last name],

I'm your constituent in [City, ZIP] and [a veteran / the spouse of a veteran / the parent of a service member / a supporter of veterans]. I'm asking you to sponsor a bill this session that lets honorably discharged veterans use their documented military experience in place of a college degree for state jobs.

[One or two sentences on your story or someone you know: their service, what they've done since, and how a degree requirement screened them out.]

Service members lead people, manage equipment and logistics, and carry real responsibility under pressure. A clear rule that names military service would keep qualified veterans from being screened out. Michigan has let veterans substitute military experience for a degree in many state jobs since 2023, Miami-Dade County does the same for county jobs, and our state could too. [Arizona only: this builds on HB 2225 (2023), which had the state identify jobs with degree requirements that people with equivalent skills could fill.]

Specifically, I'm asking you to:

- Sponsor or cosponsor a bill letting honorably discharged veterans substitute documented military experience for degree requirements in state jobs where the duties match, and
- Support a resolution urging Congress to pass the EARNED Act, which would recognize an honorable four-year enlistment with an accredited Bachelor of Arts in Defense of Freedom, with the GI Bill kept intact.

The full proposal is at earnedact.org. Four years served. One nation defended. One degree earned.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Street address, City, State, ZIP]

[Phone] • [Email]

Tip: Legislators file most bills before or early in the session, so the months before it opens are the best time to write. A week later, follow up by email and ask which staff member handles veterans or state personnel issues.

A nonpartisan citizen proposal started in Surprise, Arizona. Not affiliated with the Department of Defense or any branch of service.