WHAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS DONE FOR VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILIES

EXPANDED MILITARY CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES:
• Provide tax credits of up to $9,600 for businesses who hire disabled veterans and provides additional incentives for hiring veterans who have been unemployed for a number of weeks
• Created a task force that will help ensure that veterans have the training, education and credentials they need to be successful in their transition into the civilian workforce or higher education
• Partnered with the Department of Labor to create a program that puts businesses in contact with veterans looking for work
• Awarded grants that will invest $45 million by 2016 to support training programs that assist veterans pursuing physician assistant positions
• Established the Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Program to provide housing and support for veterans at high risk of becoming homeless

SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES:
• Launched the Joining Forces Initiative which enhances job and career development opportunities, and promotes wellness and education for veterans and military spouses
• Provides tools for employers to establish friendly workplaces for military families

REFORMED HEALTH INSURANCE:
• Signed the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act to guarantee that the VA has sufficient and predictable funding
• Increased transportation and telemedicine services to rural areas to help ensure that the nearly 40 percent of veterans in the VA system who live in rural areas get support and care faster
• Extended benefits to veterans suffering with Agent Orange-related illnesses such as Chronic B-Cell Leukemia and Parkinson’s disease
• Increased the number of mental health services for veterans and provided screenings of newly returned veterans for symptoms of PTSD, depression and alcoholism

MILITARY WOMEN:
• Passed and signed the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act which supports the 1.8 million women who have served our country
• This legislation created child care pilot programs, improves care for sexual trauma victims and forms studies about barriers to women veterans seeking health care
• Provided certain caregivers of seriously ill and injured veterans training and education, mental health services and monetary support
• Passed and signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which supports the goal of equal pay for women, including military women when they return to the civilian workforce
• Reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act

ADVANCED LGBT RIGHTS:
• Repealed Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, which prevents the discharge of service members based on sexual orientation – more than 14,000 service members were discharged based on sexual orientation while the policy was in place
• Ended the Justice Department’s Defense of DOMA
• Ended discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity for federal contractors

VETERANS...
ARE VOTERS: 14.7 million veterans voted in the 2012 elections which represented 70 percent of all veterans
ARE EDUCATED: Over 1 in 4 Veterans over the age of 25 have at least a bachelor’s degree
THE GOP ON VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILIES

Cut “Impact Aid” which provides funding for schools on military bases

40 Republican Senators and zero Democrats killed the Veterans Jobs Bill

Cut the food-stamps program – even though any given month, 900,000 veterans lived in households that rely on them

Blocked legislation to raise the minimum wage to $10.10, which would benefit 1 million veterans

Voted more than 50 times to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act

Blocked Equal Pay legislation

“We’re not going to be intimidated on this...we’re going to do the right things for the veterans of America.” – Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) right after blocking a bill that would have provided $21 billion for medical, educational, and employment training and benefits for veterans.

“We’re sort of fooling ourselves to believe that this drives the election issue list,” said Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) right after blocking a bill that would have provided $21 billion for medical, educational, and employment training and benefits for veterans.

The Republican legislature and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal banned the ability of women to exercise their right to choose via tele-medicine, which helped women in rural communities where they may not have access to doctors.

“We have to get back to a shade of normalcy. Unemployment benefits aren’t free.” – NEW YORK CONGRESSMAN TOM REED ON HIS OPPOSITION TO EXTENDING LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

“When I hear a politician say that we have to raise the minimum wage so working families can make ends meet, I cringe, because I know that statement is a lie.” – FLORIDA GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT

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