

HB 6167 Public Hearing
February 19, 2013
LOB 1E, 1:00 PM

Thank you very much for letting me speak today concerning HB 6167. My name is Major Thomas J. Walsh United States Marines and I am here today on behalf of all Ct. veterans and most importantly Disabled CT. veterans.

Presently today in the state of New Jersey on New Jersey Transit Railroad all military personnel (Active, Reservists, or Retired) and their dependents are permitted to purchase transportation at the senior citizen/passengers with disabilities reduced fare rate (50% off) upon showing their military or military dependent ID card. They can use this reduced fare on any NJ Train peak or off peak.

Another large metro area rail line the Chicago transit Authority permits a disabled veteran to ride for free, who has a qualifying service-connected disability of at least 10% or greater and can provide proof From the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

Currently in the state of CT. the Veteran Unemployment rate is considerably higher than the regular state unemployment rate, the rate for Disabled CT. Veterans is even higher. My question is why is The state of CT. discriminating against Veterans and Disabled Veterans by not providing them with any discounted fares like other states.

What I am asking you today and it is not much is to provide these same benefits that NJ Transit or the Chicago Transit Authority provides their Veterans and Reservists. Most importantly what I am asking is that Metro-North (the busiest single rail line in America that had record ridership in 2012) that Metro-North provide a free fare or at a minimum a 50% off rate (peak or off peak)for any disabled veteran who has a qualifying service-connected disability of at least 10% or greater and can provide proof from the US Department of Veteran Affairs.

This is extremely easy request, the right thing to do, and one that would help greatly in reducing the unemployment rate amongst CT. Disabled Veterans by helping get them to where the quality jobs are.

I think it's both fitting and on point to close with the quote from George Washington, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation." And in our case today the state of Connecticut. Thank You very much.

TJ Walsh
Major USMC
Disabled Veteran

Walsh, TJ (pfizerWorks)

Subject: FW: State of Connecticut
Attachments: image001.jpg

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This is an extremely easy request with a minimal cost, it's the right thing to do, and one that would help greatly in reducing the unemployment rate amongst CT. Disabled Veterans by helping get them to where the quality jobs are.

I think it's both fitting and on point to close with the quote from George Washington, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation." And in our case today the state of Connecticut. Thank You very much.