

Oral Testimony, Ashley Anderson
Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing on S.B. 212
Tuesday February 25, 2014

Good afternoon. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to speak with you about SB-212. My name is Ashley Anderson. I am a law student intern in the Yale Law School Veterans Legal Services Clinic, which represents the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center.

In addition to being a representative of CVLC and a law student, I am a veteran of the US Air Force, and the wife of a Marine Corps veteran. I served as an intelligence officer for seven years, during which I deployed to both Iraq and Kuwait. I also had the opportunity to teach cadets at the Air Force Academy. I was involved in training and leading enlisted airmen and cadets. I was personally involved in training and leading enlisted airmen and cadets, and I can tell you that my peers and I gave our intelligence personnel rigorous training in public speaking, writing, and analysis. I truly hope my airmen are able to garner the requisite college credits when they choose to move on from our military.

In my capacity as an officer, I saw firsthand the high caliber of our service-members and their families. In the most difficult of circumstances, far from home, I witnessed loyal, patriotic, and extraordinarily competent airmen and soldiers. I saw men and women as young as eighteen and nineteen securing our overseas bases as military police, keeping the world's most advanced aircraft flying as aircraft mechanics, and interpreting and disseminating real-time tactical intelligence. I saw their families supporting them by

moving across the country at a moment's notice, and oftentimes having to put their careers on hold because of the demands of military life.

I can say without a doubt that when these men and women leave the military, any state that they and their families decide to settle in gains highly trained, educated, and community-minded citizens.

I have also unfortunately witnessed the hardships that we veterans and military members face when transitioning. I have seen families strained by the inability of a wife or husband to find a job when they are moved to a new duty station. I have commiserated with friends unable to find work after years of training and experience. My husband himself experienced nearly a year of unemployment following his transition out of the Marine Corps, and was ultimately hired as a part of a corporate veterans employment initiative.

I am here today to tell you that the introduction of SB-212 makes me proud to call Connecticut my new home. I urge you to adopt it because it just makes sense to capitalize on the wealth that veterans and military families bring to Connecticut, and to reduce the redundant hurdles they face when bringing their military training to bear in the civilian workforce. Thank you so much for your continued support of our veterans, and for the opportunity to appear before you today.