



**Written Testimony of
Scott D. Jackson, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
March 3, 2016**

Good Day Senator Flexer, Representative Hennessy, Senator Martin, Representative Yaccarino and members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding **House Bill 5416, An Act Concerning the Labor Department and Veterans**. My name is Scott Jackson and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

This bill calls for DOL to establish a Special Operations Resource Network to serve as a clearinghouse for veterans and members of the armed forces and National Guard who have acquired, as part of their military training, knowledge, experience or a set of skills most compatible with certain professional opportunities.

DOL has a new system in place that we believe accomplishes the goals outlined in this bill. It is a web-based labor exchange that enables job seekers, including veterans, and employers to search for appropriate matches for employment. An individual who uses CTHires must register using a simple online registration and, by doing so, becomes a customer of the Wagner-Peyser Employment Services program. The federal Wagner-Peyser Act requires each state to administer a labor exchange system which has the capacity to assist jobseekers in finding employment, assist employers in filling jobs and facilitate the match between those 2 parties. CTHires has the capacity to match a veteran's military experience with certain professional opportunities.

DOL believes that our existing CTHires system provides the necessary assistance to veterans as outlined in this bill. Due to additional costs that are not included in the budget, DOL must respectfully oppose any move that expands CTHires or creates a new web based labor exchange system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.