

## **Testimony for Students to Soldiers**

The Sons of AMVETS would like to provide our support for House Bill 47 Students to Soldiers Act. Understanding the issue here that no student should be denied participation in any sport or after school activity due to an obligation to attend a session with their branch of service which they have signed up for is of utmost importance. Having looked into this, I have found many colleges already have something in place pertaining to this, due to some college students being in the reserves. The Sons of AMVETS support all of our veterans and do as much as we can to serve them and those that are currently active and also those entering their chosen branch. No individual should be penalized by denial of participation for missing a practice or activity if it is due to mandatory attendance for readiness to serve their country.

Coming from 30 years of teaching and coaching, I understand policies of attendance, however, many times there are extenuating circumstances that must be taken into account. Preparation to serve in the military is one of those. I understand that this does not give the entitlement to "start" and "play" in a sport, but to dress and participate as a team member should be allowed. People that sign up for military service sign a blank check payable up to their life, they should not be denied a chance to be with their teammates or colleagues in school during this tenure or transition period.

Doug Brown, Sons of AMVETS