



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Chartered by the Congress of the United States

November 14, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Rep. Johnson:

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) is pleased to support the Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act. PVA is the nation's only Congressionally-chartered veterans service organization solely dedicated to representing veterans with spinal cord injury and/or disease.

This legislation represents an innovative and creative means for promoting the involvement of veterans in science, technology, engineering, math and computer science studies and careers. Many veterans exit military service with skills in these fields but are often unsure how they might use their service-related expertise in the civilian world. Engaging the National Science Foundation to undertake outreach to veterans in its research and education activities will help capture and develop this valuable resource for the benefit of our nation. PVA particularly applauds the measure's provisions establishing a National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee under the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy on veterans and military families and STEM education. Family members are a critical component of a veteran's post-military success and this legislation takes into account the important needs of military spouses in directing the subcommittee to examine barriers to their entry into STEM careers.

PVA welcomes this opportunity to share with you our thoughts on the Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act.

Sincerely,

Carl Blake  
Interim Executive Director  
Paralyzed Veterans of America