

## **Background**

“There are currently 519,698 open computing jobs nationwide. Last year, only 42,969 computer science students graduated into the workforce.” -Code.org

To meet demands in this industry Coding Bootcamps are growing exponentially. CourseReport.com projects the industry at \$230 million with over 23,000 graduates which is ten times the number of graduates from 2012.

“The Bootcamp industry emerged out of a need for a more efficient and effective way of preparing people for the huge number of unfilled jobs in tech, which traditional higher education programs couldn't (and still aren't) addressing on their own.” -Forbes

## **Veterans in the Labor Force**

The Congressional Budget Office issued a report in May 2017 highlighting veterans in the labor force.

Key takeaways:

- Younger veterans have less education than their civilian counterparts. This stays constant until age 34 at which point veterans pass their civilian counterparts.
- Veterans are navigating disabilities at a higher rate than their civilian counterparts. The majority of those disabilities are service related.
- Veterans have a slightly higher unemployment rate than the civilian population.

The full report can be found here: <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/52418>

A consolidated presentation can be found here: <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/52827>

The Bureau of Labor Statistics also released a report in March 2107 on Veterans. Their report validates the CBO's numbers on veterans with service related disabilities.

The complete report can be found here: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.nr0.htm>

A key point is to recognize how well veterans do regardless of the challenges they face. They truly add value to any organization.

## **Legislative Advocacy**

Operation Code supports the expansion of the tech pilot program passed in the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 with a specific focus on providing Veterans greater access to qualified Coding Bootcamps and expand employment opportunities.

### **Current efforts: Advocating for the VET TEC Act**

House Majority Leader, Representatives Kevin McCarthy, R-CA, introduced The Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) Act (H.R. 1989) with a companion bill introduced by Senator John Boozman, R-AR (S. 1277).

“This legislation will prepare our veterans to thrive in a changing economy. America’s veterans are the best our country has to offer, and their service experience and work ethic are unparalleled. With these fundamental qualities, veterans can be our greatest asset in the modern economy if only we empower them to learn the skills of the 21st century workforce.” -Rep. McCarthy (R-CA)

### **This is a great start but there is still more to do...**

1. We are seeking legislative relief for State Approving Agencies (SAA) burdensome time requirements with respect to the two-year period of operation. Even established schools may be required to wait if they move to a new state or move locations.
2. We seek federal guidelines for SAA to use web portals and online applications for institutions. The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 required the VA to completely use online application and benefit management tools for veterans. SAA need to follow the VA’s lead.
3. We advocate for expanded educational opportunities during the final six months of enlistment to include Coding Bootcamp. Each service in the Department of Defense operates a transition program. These programs should be evaluative on the effectiveness with respect to employment targeting high demand sectors such as coding.

### **A question you may be asking: Who holds Coding Bootcamps accountable?**

The Council on Integrity in Results Reporting's (CIRR) was created to enable reporting on graduation rates, placement rates and salary information. Visit [CCIR.org](http://CCIR.org) to learn more.

## **Potential Employers**

### **Why hire a veteran?**

There are many intangible benefits such as leadership, team work and the ability to focus on the mission of your company. There are also very tangible benefits such as tax credits from both the federal and many state governments.

We recommend visiting this site: <https://www.va.gov/vetsinworkplace/valuableassets.asp>

It is a good starting point to all the benefits your company will gain from hiring a veteran.

## **Sources**

<https://code.org/promote>

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<https://www.forbes.com/sites/quora/2016/08/31/what-does-the-future-hold-for-coding-bootcamps/#352a870041aa>

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>

<http://nasaa-vetseducation.com/Programs.aspx>

<https://cirr.org/>

<https://techcrunch.com/2017/03/01/coding-bootcamps-commit-to-transparency-in-reporting-around-job-placement/>

<https://www.cbo.gov/publication/52418>

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