

Hello Everyone !!!

On Monday, October 28, 2019, the Nebraska Veterans Coalition briefed the Nebraska Veterans Commission. The Nebraska Veterans Commission was established from our efforts to establish a Commission in Nebraska. Senator Sue Crawford of Bellevue, subsequently used our model to draft and obtain approval for a Commission from the Legislature and the Governor

We also had a meeting afterwards with the Leadership of the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs (NDVA).

The briefing of the Commission and meeting with the NDVA topics centered around:

- 1) Recognition of NDVA Leadership efforts and accomplishments of the Commission.
- 2) Efforts, focus and successes of the Nebraska Veterans Coalition.
- 3) Workforce development and population growth needs of Nebraska.
- 4) Veterans needs in Nebraska with focus on employment and PTSD treatment.
- 5) Efforts needed to attract and retain Veterans in Nebraska.
- 6) Response to the Needs of Nebraska and its veterans.
 - (a) Develop a Veterans Council that more effectively represents the voices of all Veterans in Nebraska.
 - (b) Develop a Home Base Nebraska Program that involves a public and private effort to address employment and treatment of Veterans.
- 7) The Nebraska Department of Labor (DOL) presented a briefing on the efforts that are being expended in response to Legislation (LB138) that created a dedicated position within the DOL to focus entirely on support of veterans . The

DOL briefing outlined the considerable progress being made to respond to the legislation and the programs mandated by LB138. The efforts expended by the NDVA and the DOL make implementation of legislative requirements well ahead of schedule, actually several years ahead of schedule. We gave our feedback to their efforts and all veterans should be very pleased with the efforts to develop the infrastructure to constructively enhance the lives of veterans. Please note that LB138 was created by our efforts and the outstanding support and efforts of Senator Carol Blood and Senator Patty Pansing-Brooks.

8) We proposed additional efforts to foster an environment of effective Business and Public efforts to make it easier for Veterans to transition into new work careers and into Nebraska communities.

9) Discussion occurred about the Home Base programs in other states to include Iowa and Massachusetts. Our proposals were well received by the Commission, the DOL, and the NDVA.

10) Much has been done and, in the months, to come, those efforts will be made public. Much more remains to be done. We intend on meeting with additional State Senators to discuss our proposals with them. We shall also ask to brief the Governor's staff on our efforts.

11) We are quite pleased at the enthusiasm of the DOL and the NDVA to respond to our proposals recently enacted into law. Additional legislative proposals shall be made in the near future to provide more clear direction to the efforts of Nebraska to attract and retain Veterans

12) It has been a long and slow process, but we are so very pleased at the efforts being made to provide additional support to Veterans. How about providing big shout outs to the DOL and the NDVA for their efforts???