

OFFICE OF SEN. STROM THURMOND  
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sen. Strom Thurmond, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, announced today that the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare has taken favorable action on his bill to provide a program of vocational rehabilitation training to peacetime veterans who become disabled while on active military duty.

The Senator stated that an identical training program, already provided by the Congress for veterans of World War II and of the Korean conflict, has been demonstrated to be a most worthwhile program. Many disabled veterans who might otherwise have been merely marginal employees, and in some instances totally unemployable, have been made self-sustaining by the training available under the program.

Sen. Thurmond stated that the training should now be extended to peacetime veterans because they, too, need to overcome the limitations of physical or mental handicaps caused by injuries and illnesses which occur in connection with active military service. The existence of the Universal Military Training and Service Act and the fact that our young men and women must serve throughout troubled parts of the world is justification for providing training to peacetime veterans. The physical disabilities which the training is intended to offset or overcome arise because the individuals are subjected to hazards peculiar to military service and to which they would not be subjected in normal civilian employment.

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