

Iowa Assists Returning Veterans

In anticipation of 3,000 Iowa National Guard members being deployed this year, the Iowa Legislature took steps to ensure that when the service members return they can get the help they need and deserve.

Mental Health Assistance

New studies have shown that mental health issues are having more of an impact on soldiers than physical issues. This year, the Legislature passed a provision that requires state regulated insurance companies to cover mental health and substance abuse treatment for employed veterans. The provision applies to businesses with more than 50 employees, and to new or renewed, state regulated, insurance policies on or after January 1, 2011.

Job Security

The Legislature understands the sacrifice all service members make when being deployed. Part of that sacrifice is leaving a job where they have gained seniority and promotions. That is why in 2008, the Legislature passed a law that ensures that the returning troops are entitled to return to a position of like seniority, status, and pay prior to their leave of absence.

Home Ownership

Owning a home is part of the American dream. This year, the Legislature took steps to make it easier for veterans to use the Military Homeownership Program. Now military members can use mortgage lenders who are not currently associated with the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) to obtain mortgages through the homeownership program. In addition, outside lenders are able to apply for IFA's programs.

The program provides \$5,000 that may be used toward a down payment on a qualifying home purchase and/or closing costs on a qualifying first purchase money mortgage.

For more information on the program visit:
www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/en/for_home_buyers/military_homeownership_program/.