



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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July 24, 2012

The Honorable Dean Heller
United States Senate
361 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heller:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and our Auxiliaries, I am pleased to endorse S. 3405, the Veterans Small Business Protection Act.

Current law provides that surviving spouses who inherit service-disabled veteran-owned businesses are eligible for a variety of small business benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Unfortunately, this only took into account the veteran who returned disabled. No legislation was included that addressed service members who owned businesses that are killed in action.

S. 3405 addresses this oversight by ensuring that surviving spouses and children are eligible for small business benefits. S. 3405 authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to treat any business left to a spouse or dependent by a member of the Armed Services killed in the line of duty as a veteran-owned business or a disabled veteran-owned business for purposes of benefit eligibility. This would ensure that those families who have sacrificed greatly for our nation are taken care of accordingly.

Thank you for continuing to take the lead on this initiative, and for your continued support of our armed forces and veterans. We look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Kelley, Director
VFW National Legislative Service