

# The American Legion



OFFICE OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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July 17, 2012

The Honorable Dean Heller  
United States Senate  
SR-361A Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heller:

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion, I express full support for your draft legislation entitled the *Veterans Small Business Protection Act of 2012*, which would amend title 38, United States Code, to treat small businesses bequeathed to spouses and dependents by members of the Armed Forces killed in line of duty as small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans for purposes of the Department of Veterans Affairs contracting goals and preferences.

Public Law No. 109-461 passed in December 2006 created additional benefits for surviving spouses who inherit service-disabled veteran-owned businesses. The intent of the law was to ensure that a business owned by a veteran that received federal government contracts based on service-disabled veteran-owned business status did not suffer because the veteran died. However, the law only took into account the veteran who returned disabled; consequently, it left a statutory gap regarding those servicemembers who owned businesses and who were killed in the line of duty.

The American Legion strongly believes this legislation, if enacted, will adequately fill this gap by authorizing spouses and/or dependents to retain the status of a service-disabled veteran-owned business while continuing to contract with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The American Legion fully supports the *Veterans Small Business Protection Act of 2012* and thanks you for your leadership in addressing issues that are important to America's veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

FANG A. WONG  
National Commander