



# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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RICHMOND, VA 23219

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Virginia National Guard  
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Women Marines Association*

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## **Position Paper 2016-06**

### **Bridge to Health Care Careers for Former Military Medics and Corpsmen**

- 1. Objective:** To provide former military medics and corpsmen with employment opportunities and help fill workforce gaps for employers in the Virginia healthcare sector.
- 2. Background:**
  - a. 11,000 medics and corpsmen transitioned out of the military in 2014.
  - b. Medics and corpsmen receive extensive and valuable health care training while on active duty.
  - c. This military health care experience may not easily translate into comparable certifications/licenses required for health care jobs, meaning that former medics and corpsmen may be required to spend two or more years in school before they can obtain the credentials necessary to work in Virginia's healthcare sector.
- 3. Discussion:**
  - a. Because former medics and corpsmen cannot move directly into the healthcare sector without further training and credentialing, they may be unemployed, or underutilized and underpaid. Their potential to make an immediate impact on Virginia's health is untapped.
  - b. Creation of a medic and corpsmen health career pilot program would allow Virginia health care employers to hire former medics and corpsmen immediately after their separation from the military, tapping into their skills and experience.
  - c. To create the pilot program:
    - i. Legislation is required to give licensed practitioners the authority to delegate certain tasks to these highly-skilled veterans, enabling them to utilize their medical training in the Virginia health care sector.
    - ii. Funding is needed in order to test clinical utility, build buy-in from and familiarize hospitals with the veterans' skills and abilities, and test whether medics/corpsmen would be interested in this role.
- 4. Recommendation:** That the Governor and General Assembly authorize three positions and appropriate \$400,000 (GF) in FY17, continue at these levels in FY18, and pass the legislation necessary to assist former military medics and corpsmen in continuing to use their skills learned in the service and to place them on a path to careers in Virginia health care industry.