

Owatonna, MN – Today, Congressman Walz was in Owatonna to push an initiative he has been championing in Washington to offer tax credits to businesses who hire veterans. Walz's bill would provide a simplified tax credit for employers who hire servicemen and women who have left the service in the last 5 years.

“When the brave men and women who serve our nation in uniform leave to deploy overseas, they don't just leave behind their family and friends, often times they leave behind jobs and livelihoods as well,” said Walz, a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. “After the sacrifices they have made, making sure that they have access to a good paying job to support their families when they return is the least we can do.”

“I have seen firsthand the difficulties our veterans face when returning from war,” said Scott Metcalf, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist, MN Department of Employment and Economic Development. “This improved tax credit for employers would go a long way to help veterans who are reentering the job market during one of the toughest economies in our history and I want to thank Congressman Walz for introducing this legislation.”

“Congressman Walz's proposed legislation would provide me with an opportunity I wouldn't get anywhere else,” said Jessica White, a Navy Veteran. “For veterans like me, entering a tough job market, I appreciate Congressman Walz's efforts to ensure that we have access to good-paying jobs when we return home.”

“We want to thank Congressman Walz for coming to Viracon to talk about the business tax credits for hiring veterans, said Jim Wendorff, Vice President of Viracon. “The economic recession has impacted all businesses in southern Minnesota. We appreciate the Congressman's work to assist businesses and help grow our economy. As we recover and hire additional employees, this tax credit will definitely be part of our considerations.”

The bill will provide employers with a simplified certification process for recently discharged veterans who qualify for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. As a result, our servicemen and women who have been recently discharged will be able to provide documentation from the Department of Defense without having to go through the credit's current lengthy certification process. The Military will also educate service members on how to market themselves for employers in relation to the tax credit.

Walz introduced the legislation in May. He partnered with Senator Max Baucus of Montana, who introduced identical legislation in the Senate.