

1/20/2023

Dear House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee's

My name is Christopher Deery and I'm the Cass County Veteran Service Officer for said county. Prior to this position I worked for a non-profit (SENDCAA) and Gladys Ray homeless shelter that supported helping homeless veterans positively change the direction of their lives through housing, employment and education therefore I strongly support House Bill 1420 which would create a small business very low interest revolving loan program especially for women, minority persons, and our veterans.

Many veterans come home from deployments uncertain of their goals and what benefits they may have after serving their country. If enacted this bill would give veterans an avenue to pursue a small business loan and add a specific spark to rural and our local communities. Veterans know how to serve and this bill would be a great example of ensuring veteran leaders stay in our communities which in turn provides many other opportunities such as housing, education and the pursuit of the ultimate dream of small business ownership. The low interest rate to borrow would allow veteran owners time to grow within their start up and time could be spent focusing on satisfying their growing customer base.

Veterans in our state have served in all major crisis's when called upon and now is the time to help them once more with HB1420. Veterans have grit, honor, leadership skills and most of all respect for their communities and those living in them. What a wonderful way to repay veterans and those in the community by making their goals of small business ownership a reality.

Respectfully,

*Christopher J Deery*

Cass County Veteran Service Officer

OIF Veteran