



**National Society of
Professional Engineers®**

February 4, 2014

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) herein expresses its support for **S. 1982, The Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014**. This legislation addresses the needs of the veterans' community and responds to issues raised by veterans and their organizations in numerous hearings and private meetings.

NSPE is the sole national organization of licensed professional engineers that promotes the ethical and competent practice of engineering, advocates licensure, and enhances the image and well-being of its members. NSPE serves nearly 35,000 members and the public through 53 state and territorial societies and over 400 chapters.

NSPE particularly commends S. 1982 for incorporating the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, which acknowledges the need to protect the professional licenses of uniformed services members. NSPE strongly supports Section 802 of this legislation, which states that if a professional license issued by a state or local licensing authority to a service member would otherwise lapse during a period in which such service member is eligible for hostile fire or imminent danger special pay, the state licensing authority shall delay the expiration of the license at least 180 days. Moreover, NSPE endorses Section 802 of the legislation for applying the 180-day cushion to continuing education requirements.

These provisions recognize that when our nation's service members are placed in harm's way, they should be focused most directly on military deployment issues, their own personal safety and the safety of their fellow service members, as well as those under their command. Our service members should not be distracted or preoccupied with less critical matters. While NSPE believes strongly that state licensure requirements are vitally important, NSPE also believes that state licensure authorities should show a reasonable level of flexibility toward those defending our nation. NSPE believes the language in S.1982 embodies that level of flexibility.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to ensuring that our service members are rewarded for their service and do not face any unnecessary barriers to resuming their careers upon their return to the civilian workforce. NSPE stands ready to assist as this bill moves through the legislative process. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact NSPE Manager of Government Relations Arielle Eiser at 703-684-2844 or aeiser@nspe.org.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Green, P.E., F.NSPE
2013-14 President