

**Statement of Michael Michaud**  
**Nominee for U.S. Department of Labor**  
**Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training**  
**Confirmation Hearing before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee**  
**September 30, 2015**

Good morning Chairman Isakson, Ranking Member Blumenthal, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and for considering my nomination to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Your dedication and commitment to our Nation's veterans, transitioning warriors, and their families is inspiring. I am happy to have had the opportunity to serve with many of you during my 12 years in Congress. I know that you understand the importance of the mission at hand.

I am humbled and honored by President Barack Obama's nomination to lead the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS). President Obama and Secretary of Labor Perez are committed to ensuring that the brave warriors who serve this country have the employment support, assistance and opportunities they need and deserve to successfully transition to the civilian workforce, and find and secure meaningful careers. During my entire time in Congress, I served on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and I am often reminded of President Lincoln's promise, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." If confirmed, it will be my honor and privilege to work with this Committee to achieve that goal.

For me, taking care of those who are wearing and have worn the uniform is personal. Throughout my career as an elected official at the state and federal level, I have had the privilege of meeting with the wounded, with the mothers of the fallen, and with the many veterans that have gone on to make our Nation stronger. Every day, I was reminded of what made our country the greatest in the world: the sacrifice of the American service member. In that time, I learned a great deal. There were stories that made you want to cry, and sometimes we did. There were days you were disgusted by the way service members were treated as they suffered through an injury serving our nation. But most of all, I watched as veterans triumphed, and over came great odds to continue making America great.

I have always worked across the aisle, partnering with Republicans and Independents to do what was right for our Nation's veterans. As each of you knows, the Veterans' Affairs Committees in both chambers are considered the least partisan in Congress. As Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I fought to ensure that tradition continued as I always believed, and still do believe, that we need to put the veteran before the politics. In that vein I worked with many of you to pass legislation and implement programs designed to care for the needs of our veterans and their families. A few examples include:

- Using funding that Congress provided, we were able to build two new state-of-the-art Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC). Both of these facilities were built on property owned by Maine Veterans' Homes and included amenities designed to help address the unique needs of the female veteran population in Maine.
- In Aroostook County we established an Access Received Closer to Home (ARCH) program that has been successful in providing veterans access to health care closer to their residence. As a member of the House of Representatives, Senator Moran was instrumental in the creation of the legislation that provided for ARCH.
- I worked with the former Veteran's Affairs Secretary to help get land owned by the VA made available for a program to address homelessness among veterans in Maine. Volunteers of America are now helping to raise the \$1.5 million needed to build cabins on this land, which will be used to house currently homeless veterans.

The reason why I mention these projects is because they are examples of public-private-non-profit collaborative efforts that I was able to forge. This is the forward-looking leader that I will be if I am confirmed.

We are reminded every day of the tremendous sacrifices made by the members of the Military. They leave their families, friends, and careers behind to defend our freedoms here at home and around the world. When they return home, these brave men and women deserve a hero's welcome and a chance to utilize their unique skills to help rebuild our economy. Yet, all too often, they face a difficult transition back to civilian life and struggle to find a job. If I have learned anything in my time on Capitol Hill, our Nation's veterans don't need a handout, but with a hand-up, they exceed all of our expectations. President Obama and Secretary Perez have made a commitment to provide those who have worn the uniform and their families with the support, assistance and opportunities they need and deserve to find and secure meaningful careers. If confirmed, I would work with this Committee, Congress, other federal agencies, our Nation's Veteran Service Organizations, and our stakeholders to fulfill this commitment.

During the past couple of weeks, I have had the opportunity to meet with some of you and your staff. I have received invaluable guidance and insight into the Committee's priorities and concerns. I want you to know that I hear your concerns and am ready to get to work. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing this dialogue and am committed to being transparent and open with you.

In closing, if confirmed, I will work closely with you, with our partners, stakeholders and with the dedicated VETS team to provide transitioning service members, veterans, and their families with the best possible resources that they will need to enable their success in today's economy. Thank you again for your dedication and commitment to our

transitioning warriors, Nation's veterans and their families, and for considering my nomination.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today and am happy to answer any questions you may have.