

Member of



*New Jersey Association of Veterans  
Service Officers*

PO Box 7628  
E. Rutherford, NJ 07073

*John P. Dorrity, MSW, CVA President*  
732-929-2096

*Salvatore LoSauro, CPM, Secretary/Treasurer*  
908-820-3191

April 1, 2009

Governor Jon Corzine  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Corzine;

Recently, the State of New Jersey announced temporary layoffs of all State Employees for FY 2009, ending June 30, 2009, and also next FY 2010, beginning July 1, 2009.

Some State Employees who are 100% federally funded are also included in this layoff notice. The Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP), which is staffed by disabled veterans and assists disabled and non-disabled veterans alike, is included in this policy. The DVOP is federally funded for salary, benefits, and all costs incurred by this program.

With the layoffs, many veterans will not be able to find assistance on a daily basis. Returning Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)/ Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) veterans will be left without daily job search assistance and referrals to supportive services that are needed. The DVOP staff will lose approximately 4.6% of their yearly salary. The salary they would have earned will be returned to Washington DC.

The following year, the federal grant will be cut since it was not used. Seemingly, \$400,000 was cut from last year's federal funding for the DVOP Program, since hiring was frozen by the State of New Jersey. Approximately \$2 million has been cut from the federal grant since the State of New Jersey has not hired more DVOPs in recent years to replace those DVOPs who retired, died or resigned.

Lastly, there will be no savings to the State Treasury or reduction in the State of New Jersey debt as this funding is federal only. The veterans of the State of New Jersey will be affected negatively. No one will benefit from the layoffs of DVOP staff. Congressional oversight is needed to ensure that the States properly utilizes the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program funding, so that veterans can benefit from it fully as it was intended. This results in unnecessary layoffs, fewer DVOP positions filled, loss of critical services to all veterans at a time when they are needed most, higher rates of unemployed veterans, and veterans feeling that they are a low priority in finding employment.

Very truly yours,

John P. Dorrity MSW, CVA  
President, of the New Jersey Association of Veterans Service Officers

JPD/ljm

Cc: President Barack Obama, The White House  
Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs