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This amendment will effectively eliminate the ability to hold federal contractors accountable for discriminating against veterans and people with disabilities. There is no requirement under 503 to hire a lesser qualified candidate; the requirement is to hire the most qualified candidate even if they are a veteran or disabled. Historically that has not happened; mediocre people have been hired because of discrimination based on veteran status and disability. Anti-discrimination laws and the rules that enforce them are not detrimental to merit-based hiring, they support it. This is a blatant attempt to restore a system that benefits mediocre white men who have fallen behind in education, competency, and performance and who need a system that is biased in their favor to get ahead. This proposed change will make it increasingly harder to hold agencies accountable when they fail to use merit-based hiring practices. There is no historical reference to indicate that organizations will adhere to anti-discrimination laws without some system of checks and balances. Removing those systems is irresponsible.