



VETERANS EDUCATION SUCCESS

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U.S. Representative Luke Messer meets with Indiana Student Veterans About Forever GI Bill

New law will restore benefits to veterans attending ITT Tech when school closed

GREENVIEW, INDIANA – U.S. Representative Luke Messer (R-IN) met in Greenview today with veterans who were attending ITT Tech when the school closed in 2016, and whose GI Bill benefits will be restored thanks to a new law enacted earlier this year. One such veteran, Jason Nyikos, served in the Navy and had been attending ITT Tech for 19 months when the school closed. Suddenly, with only about half of his GI Bill benefits remaining, he found himself unable to find a school that would accept his credits.

“We thank Congressman Messer for his leadership in ensuring that this year’s ‘Forever GI Bill’ will restore benefits for veterans who were attending ITT Tech when that school closed,” said Sean Marvin, Legal Director at [Veterans Education Success](#). VES provides free assistance to veterans who were deceived or defrauded by a school. “We’re also grateful that the same law will better protect veterans who see their school close in the future. Although a number of schools like ITT Tech have closed in recent years, until now, veterans who used their hard-earned military benefits at those schools had no real recourse.”

“When ITT Tech closed its doors, thousands of veterans were left with no degree or path forward,” Messer said. “Our servicemen and women count on those benefits to help them start a career and build a life after serving our country. The least we could do was make sure they got that chance.”

Specifically, the new law provides full restoration to veterans who were enrolled at a school that closed between January 1, 2015, and August 16, 2017, and who did not transfer their credits to a new school. Going forward, veterans at schools that close will have benefits restored for the semester that was interrupted.

In addition to better protecting veterans from school closures, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, or 'Forever GI Bill,' will also remove time restrictions to use the GI Bill, enabling future recipients to use their benefits for their entire lives, as opposed to the current 15-year timeline. Additionally, it ensures 100 percent GI Bill eligibility for Purple Heart recipients, regardless of how long they've served in the military, and ensures GI Bill eligibility for members of the Armed Forces serving under specific Reserve and Medical Hold orders that had inadvertently been left out of GI Bill coverage. Further, the law enables the transfer of GI Bill benefits to children of the Fallen and also extends Yellow Ribbon coverage to those children. Congressman Messer was an original co-sponsor of, and voted for, this legislation. The full text can be found [here](#).

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