



VETERANS EDUCATION SUCCESS

[Comments on VA's Proposal to Waive the Ethics Law](#)

Comment

I served in multiple deployments overseas during my 8 year enlistment. Before I got out I had enrolled in college. I decided the best thing for me was to attend ITT. The recruiters there assured me that I would be able to achieve my Bachelors degree in the 36 month time frame that I had. Needless to say I am not 10k in debt, I took the max allowance of credits as I could and that promise of getting my degree in 36 months was never achieved. I had on a number of occasions had to go to the Dean of the school and complain about the lack of care that the teachers provided. It felt as if they were just there to collect a paycheck. In one instance a teacher was let go but not until after he had administered 3 of my classes. The thought of getting a job right after graduation was, well for a lack of better words, a JOKE. ITT sent me job postings for janitorial position and receptionist jobs and everyone of them paid minimum wage and required no degree. This school stole 4 years of my life away and took advantage of us students and promised us things that we never received. My current job has nothing to do with my education that I received. For you to allow employees to accept BRIBES from the FOR PROFIT fraud institutions is disgusting. You are supposed to be protecting us from things like this not paying for us to be taken advantage of. Money for one person could ruin an entire family.

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-WACO-0001-0245
Tracking Number: 1k1-8dli-vxqj
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Date Posted:
Oct 4, 2017
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Submitter Information
Submitter Name:
Tasha Smith

Comment

This is wrong unethical and illogical. I went to DeVry university they lied to myself and many other veterans about fees and student loans for which I'm still trying to fight to have dismissed as they were shut down for several violations and stole my GI bill. For the VA to allow this to happen is highly intolerable. I served my country and now it feels like my country isn't serving myself and the thousands of other veterans and I say no more.

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-WACO-0001-0279
Tracking Number: 1k1-8d4j-tye9
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Document Information
Date Posted:
Oct 11, 2017
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Submitter Information
Submitter Name:
Christopher Hawk

Comment

I was defrauded from three for-profit colleges: Lincoln College of Technology, Brown Mackie and ITT Technical Institute. Those recruiters use aggressive tactics to get me to sign up for classes and promise me things to I never seen come to past. The degrees that I received from these institutions are almost useless because most companies don't take for-profit colleges seriously. In the process of almost finishing my Bachelors degree in Cyber Security the institution that I was attending went bankrupt and resulting in me exhausting all of my GI Bill benefits.

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-WACO-0001-0262
Tracking Number: 1k1-8d4j-5zbd
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Date Posted:
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Submitter Information
Submitter Name:
Marcus Robinson

Comment

I've already lost a good portion of my GI Bill to ITT Tech so why screw over all other veterans with the same problem. Oh yea do I get those benefits back? Nope..

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-WACO-0001-0276
Tracking Number: 1k1-8d4j-5ztp
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Date Posted:
Oct 11, 2017
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Submitter Information
Submitter Name:
Ronnix Boxes

Comment

This is absolutely absurd! How are we, as student veterans, supposed to be protected if this happens? And why did the current presidential administration put a former official of a for-profit university (DeVy), which settled a law suit in regardless to misleading and defrauding students, in charge of the Department of Education enforcement unit? This makes no sense to me, and quite frankly infuriates me to no end. I feel like there are current "backdoor" deals going on to protect those in power from investigation, along with negotiations for kickbacks to those protecting the parties currently defrauding students. How are defrauded students supposed to achieve any level of justice?! I feel like I'm at a complete loss.

ID: VA-2017-VACD-0001-0287

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z58-1vkq

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Date Posted:
Oct 11, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:
Jarrod Thomas

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Comment

Well, in a nutshell, the GI Bill ruined my life. The things going on at the school I attended were criminal, disgusting and unethical. I had no way of knowing this until I enrolled. When I was advised by a VSO rep and the Texas Veterans Commission to withdraw and find another school, I incurred a debt that I am still currently paying at the rate of \$600 a month. The VA paid a lump sum of over \$21,000 to this school which is only a barber college that would take 10 to 12 months to complete at most. I wrote my congressman Louie Gohmert, I went through the principles of excellence and submitted numerous complaints to them and other state agencies and no one helped me. The VA director replied to me through congressman Louie Gohmert only to tell me that if there is a problem to submit a complaint which was done weeks prior. The original debt was about \$18,000 but is about \$10,000 right now. After my situation, I met other veterans who had went to the same school and faced similar issues and also got in debt. These people know exactly what they are doing and the GI Bill as a failed system that I hate I even accessed at all. It's not a benefit, its a trap. Its a benefit for predatory schools. The school never paid back any of the money which would have been 75%. A few years ago I tried to commit suicide but was saved by my wife, and had not really thought about much until this situation happened. PTSD, Depression, but none of that matters to some people only money. I never used my diagnosis as a crutch or anything like that and many people didn't know I had it until I was in the newspaper. Now I can't even get a job, and I can't afford to move. So this is my life if you can call this living. I think all school that uses GI Bill should have a certified VSO rep at the school because I had no one to represent for me as a person so being a veteran didn't make things any better. They just lie to get you in the door and then they get paid. You never mattered the money did, that's the GI Bill for you. They don't have ethics now so they want to make it worse for veterans and better for schools and VA employees. Who writes this crap? The only reason they want to legalize this shit is because they have already been paying them. The VA isn't helping people now but they want incentives, hell no! This is the worst thing they could ever come up with. It's going to be harder to get people to fight wars in the future when this is the crap they go through when they come home. Who the hell wants to be a veteran?

I sometimes give other veterans rides to the VSO's office that was supposed to help me with my situation. While being up there a few weeks ago, the VSO tells me that another veteran is having issues at the school something about VA or GI Bill payment, and I just sit back and listen, but the guy is still attending. So the other day the VSO tells me that the student mentioned to the owner that he heard about other veterans having issues there. The owner goes to the VSO and it's a friendly visit to say hey I hope you're not badmouthing me because we have been working together for a long time. The owner even leaves flyers and brochure for his school on display at the VSO office. The 2 of them grew up on the same street went to the same school. It does not take a genius to put 2 and 2 together. How can you fight something when it seems like the people that are supposed to be helping you are a part of it.

[Web-link HERE](#)

Comment

I worked in colleges and universities for over 30 years. Students new to the experience, especially adult students are seldom prepared to ask the important questions that would help them make an informed decision. Adult students are more anxious that 18 year old students who have few of the life experiences that our Vets bring to their college experiences.

These questions include:

1) Will my credits transfer to a state school AND COUNT TOWARD MY DEGREE?

A note here, if a for-profit school is not accredited by the same body as the school the student transfers to the answer to that question is "probably not." HOWEVER the response for profit sales reps are often trained to give to that question is "that depends." Over the years I've talked to dozens and dozens of students who came to my school(s) expecting to transfer their credits based on promises made by the for profit reps.

2) What percentage of your graduates are working? What is their average income when they are hired, and after five years?

I encourage members of the committee to assign staff to call various schools and ask those questions. Data will likely not be offered. Instead there are "success stories" of a few alumni. If they ask to speak to those alumni, will they be able to?

The report, *Subprime Opportunity*, by the Education Trust, found that in 2008, only 22 percent of the first-time, full-time bachelor's degree students at for-profit colleges over all graduate within six years, compared with 55 percent at public institutions and 65 percent at private nonprofit colleges.

And the U.S. Department of Education NCES document which I was unable to attach indicates the same. The URL is <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=40>

Our Vets deserve the best and it's just not a big deal if there are a few stocks that VA employees can't own. Unless, of course, it is your hope that they will steer our Vets to those schools.

[Web-link HERE](#)

Comment

I've experienced issues with a For-Profit Educational Institution. ITT Tech Institute displayed those practices where all of my Post 9/11 GI Bill was used for school, however I never got a job which they promised and now I'm sucked with a worthless degree which is not recognized by any school. I need to recoup my funds but I do not know how complete the process. I want to attend another school but currently do not have the funds to pay for the school.

ID: VA-2017-VACD-0001-0047

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z01-kbny

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Oct 4, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:
Craig Hackley

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Comment

It embarrasses me that I even have to write that Bribery, yes Bribery, is wrong. VA employees should not be allowed to be bribed by colleges or for-profit school.

I was scammed by a for-profit school while I was in the service. Those places shouldn't be in business let alone have advertisements on VA grounds or Military campuses. I was \$60,000 in debt with an "education" I couldn't use. I even used some of my benefits to pay for it. Vets who went to Corinthian or Westwood can not get their benefits back.

I should not have to write this. For-profit schools should not be eligible for GI or any government subsidies, period.

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ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0258

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z3z-e9t

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Date Posted:

Oct 11, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:

Jeanette Evans

Comment

It's time to clean out the blood sucker who only have the interest of politics and greed and not the interest of those who have suffered so much and deserve free health care and most of all schooling. This plan make me sick knowing that some a-hole would even think about passing this, so whom ever it is....YOUR FIRED.

Royce Garcia
Veteran US ARMY

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ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0248

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z0o-85uf

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Oct 4, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:

Royce Garcia

Comment

The VA should be considering the best interest of the veterans they serve. In my opinion it would be a conflict of interest if VA employees accepted incentives from agencies and for-profit schools they oversee. It would turn into a situation of favor for favor especially when these for-profit schools take advantage of these soldiers and their educational benefits. I personally encounter financial issues with my school on a regular basis especially when I have to depart from school for military reasons in the middle of a financial semester. One year I had to repay my school money that I never received toward my education nor in a stipend. I had no way to dispute the issue because it was the school's way or no way. Please do not allow colleges to continue to take advantage or have the upper hand against our military students.

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0265

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z3y-8jk0

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Date Posted:

Oct 11, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:

Daviann Johnson

Comment

Veterans should always be at the forefront of decisions within the VA agency. Allowing FOR-PROFIT academic institutions to "pay off" the VA to compensate for ripping Veterans off of their education benefits is the most asinine thing you have come up with. These institutions should be held accountable for their deceitful business practices.

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0249

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z0o-nctq

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Date Posted:

Oct 4, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:

Stephanie Stefel

Comment

The VA's primary concern should be veterans, not whether its employees can make extra money off the job. Please don't go forward with this proposal. Myself, my husband, my sons father, and many people close to me has served and is still serving in the military, and the VA needs to protect the veterans of this country.

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0261
Tracking Number: 1k1-8z3x-cjqz

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Date Posted:
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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:
Anonymous Anonymous

Comment

Don't scrap the ethics law! Colleges that want the GI Bill should not be allowed to pay off VA employees."

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0285
Tracking Number: 1k1-8z50-fBa1

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Oct 11, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:
Elisabeth Smith

Comment

I forsee nothing but corruption. This can easily and i tell you from experience that it will cost us and screw us greatly. Look at Chicago's fall it was all because of mismanagement of contracts and this is a major culprit of it. Please do take Chicago as a great model for what can happen

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0263
Tracking Number: 1k1-8z3x-po4m

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Date Posted:
Oct 11, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:
Bradley Lash

Comment

This should not be enacted. For profit schools are predatory, especially when it comes to the GI Bill. Please DO NOT allow this change to go into effect. Our veterans deserve more.

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0255
Tracking Number: 1k1-8z1x-yz1v

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Date Posted:
Oct 5, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:
Jessica Flores

Comment

This proposed change makes absolutely no sense and as a combat veteran and student I oppose making it easier for corruption to take place without any demonstrated need through quantifiable or qualitative evidence. Please reject this rule.

It goes without saying that VA's primary concern should be veterans, not whether its employees can make extra money off the job. Please don't go forward with this proposal.

[Web-link HERE](#)

Comment

These for-profit schools do not have the veterans best interests in mind. Like so many other organizations, for-profit schools see veterans as a revenue source, nothing more. By allowing the employees of the VA to accept what is basically a bribe to influence former military to spend their GI bills at their institutions, the VA is putting profit first and veterans second.

Has the VA learned nothing from schools like ITT Tech? Thousands of veterans have wasted their GI benefits. On top of the degrees being worthless, the credits at these for-profit school don't transfer making higher education impossible.

It is simply irresponsible to sell out veteran's futures like this.

[Web-link HERE](#)

Comment

Rolling back ethics rules that prevent VA employees from investing in for-profit colleges is a terrible idea. No VA employee, and no VA client should be exposed to conflict of interest that this would engender. VA employees can find somewhere to invest where they are free of any temptation to manipulate clients for financial reward. The rules are meant to protect veterans from abuse by employees with a vested interest in recommending certain educational institutions, and they should remain in place.

[Web-link HERE](#)

Comment

My name is Dr. Dahn Shaulis. I am a US Army veteran, independent researcher and activist who has been investigating predatory for-profit colleges for several years.

I have also written and published reports on subprime colleges and the lead generators they use to prey on service members, veterans, and their families. Sadly, the military services and VA have chosen to side with these predatory companies rather than protecting those who have served.

The VA's attempt to end this conflict of interest rule shows how little the Trump Administration cares about its veterans. And I am not surprised.

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-WACO-0001-0284

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z3x-5kcb

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:

Tyson Manker

ID: VA-2017-WACO-0001-0286

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z58-1vcw

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:

Scott Dunn

ID: VA-2017-WACO-0001-0306

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z5w-rqk0

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Oct 12, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:

Georgia Morgan

Submitter's Representative:

GEORGIA MORGAN

ID: VA-2017-WACO-0001-0242

Tracking Number: 1k1-8yy0-qfgn

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Date Posted:

Oct 2, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:

Dahn Shaulis

Organization Name:

Independent researcher

Comment

Terrible idea. The VA is a joke already and they don't need any more power or control. I think we should do away with the organization all together. Private care paid for and the pension restructured to benefit the veteran not line their pockets. Over the VA!!

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0244

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z0l-uhsp

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Date Posted:

Oct 4, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:

Jared Stirling

Comment

See attached file(s)

Comment in response to "Notice of Intent and Request for Comment: Employees Whose Association With For-Profit Educational Institutions Poses No Detriment to Veterans"

The Servicewomen's Action Network (SWAN) strongly opposes this proposed change to current regulations. If enacted, it will allow Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) employees to receive wages, salary, dividends, profits, gratuities or services from or to own interest in for-profit institutions that accept GI Bill-using students. It is not the task of DVA employees to seek personal profit from these institutions but rather to provide oversight of them to ensure student veterans are treated fairly and receive a quality education in exchange for the GI Bill-based tuition payments these institutions collect. Too many of these for-profit institutions have engaged in questionable marketing practices in recruiting veterans and too many student veterans enrolled in for-profit institutions have experienced poor educational outcomes. In fact, the recently passed Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act includes provisions to help veterans hurt by unscrupulous actions taken by certain of these institutions. Now is not the time to loosen ethics rules that protect our veterans.

Attachments (1)

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0305

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z0v-4wyj

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Oct 12, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:

Lory Manning

Organization Name:

Servicewomen's Action Network (SWAN)

Comment

This is one of the worst ideas I've ever seen. There is no need for the corrupt VA to have the ability to become more corrupt. Please kill this bill for all Veterans. If you care about standing for a flag so much but don't see the hypocrisy in this than you need to wake up and remove your head from your ass.

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0262

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z3x-22qv

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:

Nick Barron

Comment

The VA's primary concern should be veterans, not whether its employees can make extra money off the job. Please don't go forward with this proposal. I currently serve in the Army and I'm a Veteran.

[Web-link HERE](#)

ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0266

Tracking Number: 1k1-8z3y-6yws

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:

Renee Seruntine

Comment

Please do not change this ethics policy. It opens the way to massive conflicts of interest.

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Tracking Number: 1k1-8z41-duw3
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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:
Tristan davis

[Web-link HERE](#)

Comment

Please keep the existing ethics law in place. Thank you

ID: VA-2017-WACO-0001-0290
Tracking Number: 1k1-8z5c-81vb
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Oct 11, 2017

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:
Anonymous Anonymous

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Comment

As the grandson of veterans and a member of a family that relies heavily on the G.I. bill, I strongly disagree with the Department of Veterans Affairs decision to allow its employees to take contributions and own stock in the same for-profit colleges it regulates. Veterans are uniquely vulnerable to for-profit colleges. Federal law requires at least 10% of for-profit funding come from private funds but allows G.I. funding to be counted as private funds. This creates an enormous economic incentive for predatory for-profit colleges that are often of low quality and high priced, to disproportionately target veterans and their families.

Evidence the loophole has caused for-profit colleges to aggressively market to veterans is abundant. A 2014 Senate H.E.L.P. Committee report found in the 2012-2013 school year, for-profit colleges were given \$1.7 billion in G.I. Bill benefits, which was nearly the cost of the entire G.I. program four years early. Reveal News found that recruiters for the University of Phoenix were allowed to give gifts to troops and insert marketing materials into official welcome packets for newly arriving soldiers. The Huffington Post found websites with military audiences like Military.com and GIJobs.com use online ads to lure and scam veterans into enrolling for-profit colleges. Congress has failed to act to close this loophole, it should be up to the V.A. to protect veterans and their families like my own, from these fraudulent institutions. Unfortunately, this new regulation will allow for-profit colleges to legally influence important V.A. decisions through corruption and bribery.

In its justification, the V.A.s main argument is the law is too broad and could have detrimental effects for employees, especially lower level employees who want to teach or learn at these institutions. The V.A. points to two of its employees that could have been fired for teaching at for-profit colleges. Part D of the statute already solves the problem of ambiguity by allowing the V.A. to waive the statute for specific employees that will not cause any detriment to veterans. By the V.A.s own admission, the law worked and continues to work because the adjunct professors the notice mentioned were absolved of any wrongdoing, granted waivers and allowed to continue working at the V.A. and teach classes. The law is not too vague because it allows for exceptions in specific cases as it has done in the past and will continue to do.

Instead of only waiving the statute for the few specific individuals, which was Congress intent with the statute, the V.A. waived the statute for all 330,000 of its employees. This while not providing any valid evidence or assurances those employees will not be bribed by for-profit colleges. The V.A.s proposed actions make veterans more vulnerable to institutions that are notorious for high prices, high dropout rates, little money spent on instruction and are under numerous investigation for deceptive practices. I strongly recommend the Department of Veterans Affairs to withdraw its notice "Employees Whose Association With For-Profit Educational Institutions Poses No Detriment to Veterans" and instead take steps to ensure veterans, their families and taxpayers are protected from the predatory actions for-profit colleges have and continue to take.

Sources Cited:

Two Years After Harkin Report Revealed Questionable Business Practices in For-Profit College Industry, New Analysis Shows For-Profit Colleges Are Top Recipients of Post 9/11 G.I. Bill Dollars | The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions. (2014, July 30). Retrieved October 08, 2017, from <https://www.help.senate.gov/record/newsroom/press/two-years-after-harkin-report-revealed-questionable-business-practices-in-for-profit-college-industry-new-analysis-shows-for-profit-colleges-are-top-recipients-of-post-9-11-gi-bill-dollars>

Glantz, A. (2017, September 08). University of Phoenix gained special access to military base for a price. Retrieved October 08, 2017, from <https://www.revealnews.org/blog/university-of-phoenix-gained-special-access-to-military-base-for-a-price/>

Halperin, D. (2016, February 01). Military-Branded Websites Push Veterans to Troubled For-Profit Colleges. Retrieved October 08, 2017, from https://www.huffingtonpost.com/davidhalperin/military-branded-websites_b_9131742.html

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name:
Josh Weinstein

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