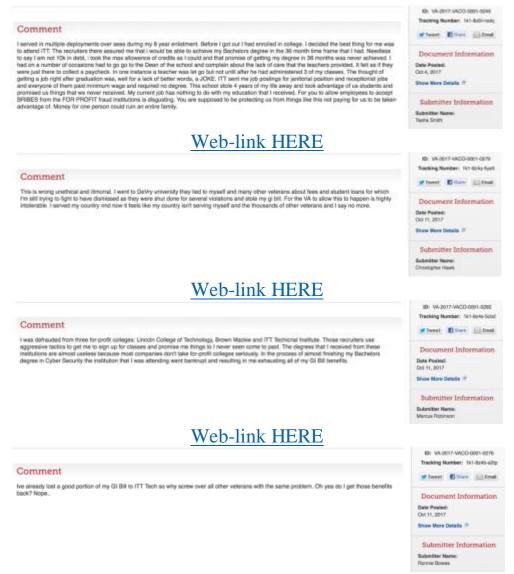


Comments on VA's Proposal to Waive the Ethics Law



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 (DeVry), 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 infuristes 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



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Comment

Well, in a nutstrell, 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 Viterans-Commission to withdraw and find another school, 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 its only a better college that would take 0 to 10 to 12 months to complete at most. I when they congressment Louis Coherent. I went freezigh the principles of exceptions of advised that was a problem to be about a complaint which was done weeks prior. The origin the principles of exceptions at Library to bell in that of I them is a problem to submit a complaint which was done weeks prior. The originat issues and also got in debt. These people know searchy what they are adding and the Gi Bill is a failed system that I have it own accessed at all. It is not a benefit for predictary actions. The school never paid beat any of the emergy which would have seen ago! I think all only the prior or a series of the problem of the prior or any of the prior of the series of the predictary actions. The school never paid beat any of the emergy which would have seen 27%. A few years ago! I think to so benefit for predictary actions. The school never paid beat any of the emergy which would have seen 27%. A few years ago! I think to a something the school never paid beat any of the emergy which would have seen the prior or any or an

I sometimes give other veterans ricks 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 VX or Gi Bill payment, and I just all back and laten, but the gay is still adending. 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 gives to the VSO and Its a friendly vett to say hey I hope journ's not badimeuthing me because we have exoking logisther for a long time. The owner even leaves thyers and brothure for his school on display at the VSO office. The 2 of them gree up on the same steet went to the same school. It does not take a genius to put 2 and 2 together. How can you light something when it seems like the people that are supposed to be helping you are a part of it.

ID: VA-2017-VACID-0001-0268 Tracking Number: 19.1-6256-pbs Witnest Elber jeltrest Document Information Oct 11, 2017 Show More Details # Submitter Information Submitter Name: Curtis Owens

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Comment

I worked in colleges and universities for over 30 years. Students new to the experience, especially adult students are seldon prepared to ask the important questions that would help them make an informed decision. Adult students are more analous that 16 year old students who have few of the life experiences that our Vets bring to their college experiences.

1) Will rey credits transfer to a state school AND COUNT TOWARD MY DECREE?
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." I POWDEVER the response the for profit sales recar are often instructed to give to that question is "that depends." Over the years the taked 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 everage income when they are hired, and after five years? I encourage members of the committee to assign staff to call various schools and ask fince questions. Data will likely not be offered, instead there are "success stories" of a few authmnt. If they are to be pask to those alturnit, and they be able to a finite or the pask of th

The report, Subprime Opportunity, by the Education Trust, found that in 2008, only 22 percent of the first-time, full-time buchelor'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.ord.gov/fusthacts/daplay.asp?rd=40

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



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Comment

I've experienced issues with an For-Profit Educational Institution. (I'T Tech Institute displayed those practices where all of my Post 911 Gil Bit was used for school, however I server got a job which they promised and now I'm sucked with a worthless degree which is not recognised by any school. I need to recope my funds but I do not know how complete the process. I want to altend another school but currently do not have the funds to pay for the school.





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 buisiness 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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Comment

It's time to clean out the blood sucker who only have the interest of politics and greed and notthe 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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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 slipend. 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.

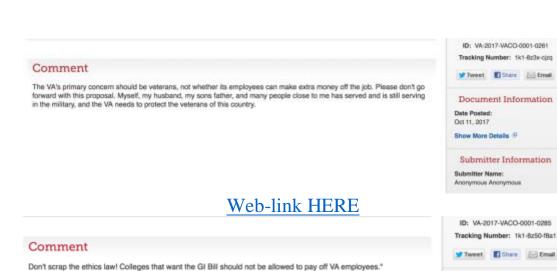
ID: VA-2017-VACO-0001-0265 Tracking Number: 1k1-823y-8jk0 Tweet Share Email Document Information Date Posted: Oct 11, 2017 Show More Details 9 Submitter Information Submitter Name: Davions Johnson

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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 as





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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



Document Information

Submitter Information

Date Posted:

Submitter Name: Elisabeth Smith

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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.



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.



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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.

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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.



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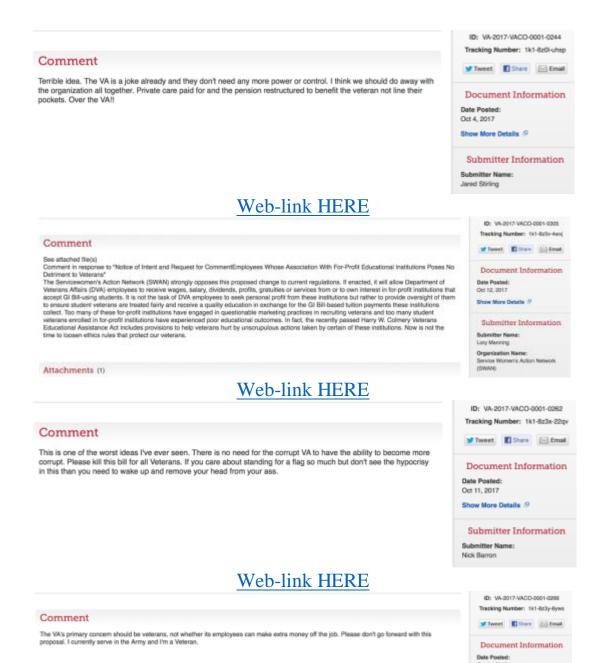
Comment

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.





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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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Comment

Please keep the existing ethics law in place. Thank you

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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 tunding 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. Reriveal 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 Globs.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 wrongoting, granted waivers and allowed to continue working at the V.A. and teach classes. The law is not too viegue 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 statue for the few specific individuals, which was Congresss intent with the statute, the V.A. waived the statue for all 390,000 of its employees. This while not providing any valid evidence or assurances those employees will not be britted 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, lifter 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 predictory actions for profit colleges have and continue to take.

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