

## **Support the Brown Amendment to Strike the Manchin Amendment from NDAA Protect DOD Rules to Prevent Aggressive Recruiting on Base**

### *What is the Manchin Amendment?*

Sen. Manchin's amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act seeks to override existing Defense Department (DOD) rules governing access to military installations. It would require the Defense Secretary to grant schools unfettered access to all members of the Armed Forces, as well as any other persons eligible for Defense education aid, on military installations – including military hospitals, where [abusive recruiting of brain-injured wounded warriors](#) took place, giving rise to the DOD protections. It is not limited to schools' enrolled students, but is instead explicitly designed to guarantee school access to recruit new students. It would even permit unlimited base access for schools currently under law enforcement action for deceptive recruiting and consumer fraud. It also establishes a new goal for the Secretary of providing access to schools, rather than acting in the best interest of the military and service members. The amendment appears to be a give-away to American Public University System/American Military University (APUS/AMU), a for-profit college headquartered in WV, characterized by a high 23% student loan default rate.

### *Why is the Manchin Amendment bad for service members?*

The Manchin Amendment would undermine the purpose of the Defense Department's rules and their legitimate goal of ensuring service members are able to perform their military duties without being subjected to harassment by aggressive and unscrupulous college recruiters. DOD reports that some educational institutions – including APUS/AMU – are still engaged in misleading and aggressive recruiting on military installations, in violation of the memorandum of understanding (MOU). Weakening the existing DOD regulations is the opposite of what service members need right now.

The Manchin Amendment also would give schools access in proportion to the number of students enrolled. As Sen. Heinrich (D-NM) wrote in the Committee Report, "This would result in an outcome where public universities teaching on base will be required to have less access to base than those conducting online courses with high enrollment numbers. Current DOD regulations treat all schools the same; this unprecedented change . . . has the potential to incentivize predatory conduct."

### *Why is the Manchin Amendment bad for the U.S. Military?*

Allowing unscrupulous for-profit recruiters to have unfettered access to military installations will interrupt the military mission on base and interfere with service members' ability to perform their duties.

### *Isn't the Manchin Amendment needed for schools to be able to serve their students?*

No. Existing DOD rules provide ample parameters for educational institutions to have significant and adequate access to military installations, especially for educational counseling of enrolled students. In order to protect service members,

only schools that agree to abide by a [DOD MOU](#), and its rules prohibiting misleading recruiting, are allowed on military installations. According to DOD officials, military students report they currently have sufficient opportunity on base to consult with schools about their educational plans and needs, and APUS/AMU has never been denied access to counsel its students on base.

*Why should we protect DOD rules that are good for servicemembers?*

The DOD MOU rules were formulated in public rulemaking in 2013. [Public comment](#) submitted by leading military and veterans service organizations requested strong rules to prevent unscrupulous, aggressive recruiting on base by for-profit colleges – a demand also made in the [Military & Veteran Students Educational Bill of Rights](#), which prompted [Executive Order 13607](#), requiring the DOD MOU rules. Military and veterans leaders also [wrote](#) DOD this past October, requesting strong enforcement of the DOD rules in light of evidence of schools engaged in surreptitious recruiting on military installations.

**Please vote for the Brown Amendment to strip the Manchin Amendment from NDAA.**

*More information:*

DOD MOU [rules](#) for school access to military installations.

Senators' [statement](#): Brown, Durbin, Warren, and Blumenthal Move to Strip Defense Bill of Provision That Would Allow Predatory and Exploitative For-Profit Colleges Unfettered Access to Recruit on Military Bases

[Letter](#) from Military, Veterans, and Education Organizations to Senator Manchin.

[Letter](#) from twelve state Attorneys General.

[Letter](#) to Senators McCain and Reed from Military, Veterans, and Education Organizations.

Alert from Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights: [View this letter online here.](#)

The Hill: [Groups Urge Senate to Oppose Defense Language on For-Profit Colleges](#)

Politico Pro: [Veterans Groups Slam Amendment Enabling Easier Access to Military Bases for For-Profit Schools](#)

Huffington Post: [Veterans Groups Oppose Manchin Amendment Giving For-Profit Colleges Unfettered Access to Military Bases](#)

