



# VETERANS EDUCATION SUCCESS

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**Cynthia Castellon**

*Lake Ter Rockville, MD*

Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cynthia Castellon. I am a United States military veteran, and a resident of Lake Ter Rockville, Maryland. In 2014 I enrolled at Everest Institute to pursue a degree in nursing. Even though I told them I had called to find out about nursing school, they pushed for me to go through the medical assistant route stating that it could better increase my employment options.

After enrolling, Everest signed me up for loans without my knowledge, and I had no idea that I had to pay anything until after I graduated. When I asked Everest about these loans, they lied to me stating that the emails to remind me were sent to an email address that I never used.

I completed their medical assistant program in 2016, and to this day I have not been able to find work in the area that I paid to learn. I was lied to and manipulated into using my Post 9/11 GI Bill, AND taking out unnecessary loans, just so Everest could make a profit.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you will take my testimony to heart when you are considering policy that will help protect future student veterans from predatory for-profit schools that only see them as a dollar sign.