

**Oregon House Committee on Education**  
**Hearing on Veterans Private Education Protection Act: HB 2976**  
**March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Ryan Preston**

Good morning Chairwoman Doherty, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Ryan Preston, and I am an Army Combat Veteran who deployed to Iraq in '04/'05.

I signed up and attended Everest college from Jan 08 to Jan 2010. What drew me in was the promise of small class sizes, as I was suffering from PTSD from my deployment to Iraq in 04/05. The thought of larger groups in public universities caused great anxiety. I was told that Everest college had a solid reputation in the local criminal justice community, and finding employment would be easy. Five years later I am still unemployed in my field of study. It wasn't until a year into my studies that I learned Everest lacked national accreditation, leaving me near optionless for counting my degree as training if I chose to relocate to another part of the country, or tried to attend most other colleges. Grudgingly, I continued as I had already half completed the program. Upon completion I was promised the ability to review courses for life, access to facilities and job placement assistance for life as an alumni perk, I received a total of 2 online job leads and then the university reps tried forcing me to sign a release of liability so they would not be obligated to assist me in finding employment, and I refused. From then on career services would not help me or return phone calls. This ordeal lasted 6 months until I gave up. I feel Everest college stole most of my GI bill causing irreparable damages.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this very important issue, and I look forward to seeing it pass into law.