Protect the GI Bill Act

HR 4625: GIVE STUDENT VETERANS THE SAME RIGHTS AS NON-VETERANS

OVERVIEW

The Protect the GI Bill Act of 2019 will create common-sense oversight of schools and give military-connected students the same rights as non-veterans when their schools close, when they face an overpayment, and when a school loses its eligibility to operate.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

The Protect the GI Bill Act includes key provisions which Military and Veteran Service Organizations have been advocating for since 2012 including:

- **Restores Education Benefits for Military-Connected Students at Closed Schools:** Gives military-connected students parity with Title IV students by reinstating all VA education benefits for students whose school has closed or been disapproved as long as they were enrolled 120 days before closure and didn't transfer more than 12 credits to a comparable program.

- **Gives Military-Connected Students the Same Rights as Title IV Students on Overpayments:** Requires schools (not students) to repay VA any tuition overpayments when a student drops out or drops a class; also requires monthly enrollment verification to stay up to date on when a veteran drops out or drops a class.

- **Includes Common-Sense Oversight of Schools:** Requires common-sense review if a school faces punitive action by federal or state government; the school’s accreditor, or if the Education Department puts the school on Heightened Cash Monitoring or Title IV “provisional status.”

- **Protects Military-Connected Students’ Hard-Earned Education Benefits from Schools Terminated by ED:** If the Education Department terminates a school, VA must too.

- **Stops Deceptive Recruiting:** The bill strengthens 38 USC 3696 - the law that requires VA to cut off schools that engage in deceptive recruiting - by imposing a strict timeline. It also empowers State Approving Agencies to act, in addition to VA.

- **Protects Military-Connected Students from Fake Law Schools:** Makes sure law schools are approved by the American Bar Association to be approved for VA education benefits.

- **Informed School Choice:** Requires schools to honor deployments and provide military-connected students a point of contact and clear information about key facts about the program, including cost, transferability of credits, etc.

- **Embraces Foster/Adopted Kids:** Clarifies GI Bill transferability rules for dependents to include adopted and foster children, because they were inadvertently left out of the definition of “dependents.”