



VETERANS EDUCATION SUCCESS

1250 H Street NW Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005

January 7, 2020

Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
(005R1C) VACO
Washington, DC 20420
Via email: vacofoiaservice@va.gov

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I request that a copy of the following documents be provided to Veterans Education Success:

- All communications and documents the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) possesses regarding any meetings, written interactions, emails, or other correspondence between VA and the University of Phoenix (UOP) or its owners Apollo Global Management, The Vistria Group, or any other owner or representative acting on behalf of UOP or its owners between January 1, 2019 and January 1, 2020.
- Specifically, we are looking for records of communications and interactions pertaining to any actual or potential adverse actions (such as sanctions, suspensions, fines, preliminary findings from the FTC) by the VA or any other federal agency, as well as any discussions regarding UOP's eligibility for VA educational benefit programs. This includes interactions and communications with VA's Office of General Counsel.

I request a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operation of the government and is not primarily in our commercial interest as we are a nonprofit organization that advocates on behalf of military-connected students. The information sought would illuminate how the VA interacts with the largest recipient of GI Bill benefits since the program's inception, and this information would help the public understand better how the VA administers education benefits.¹

¹ See *United States v. The University of Phoenix, et. al*, civil action no. 2:19-cv-05772-ESW, D. Ariz., December 10, 2019, available at https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/cases/university_of_phoenix_ftc_v_uop_complaint_signed.pdf, 17.

If the waiver of fees is not granted and fees exceed \$25, please contact me immediately. If you need to discuss this request, you can reach me at (702) 234-5956, or by email at aniela@vetsedsuccess.org. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Aniela K. Szymanski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'A'.

Aniela K. Szymanski
Senior Director of Legal Affairs