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Ms. Leah Gjertson  
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago  
1313 E 60th Street  
Chicago, IL 60637

Dear Ms. Gjertson:

I write to express my support for the important federal data-linking project proposed by the American Institutes for Research, which will utilize the US Census Bureau's linkage infrastructure to study the effectiveness and economic impact of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This will be an important pilot for linking federal data from the Departments of Education, Veterans Affairs, Treasury, and the US Census Bureau, along with the National Student Clearinghouse. It will answer key questions about the student outcomes and economic impact of the nation's \$62 billion investment in the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which is designed to provide a smooth transition to the civilian workforce for the current generation of American military veterans.

For too long, federal agency data has remained in silos, particularly as it relates to student veterans. For example, the US Department of Education does not know which students in its database are veterans, while the US Department of Veterans Affairs knows only how much money it releases in GI Bill dollars, but not what the student outcomes are, such as the graduation rate or student debt.

Policymakers need to know how the Post-9/11 GI Bill is working and how our current generation of military veterans is succeeding in the workforce.

In particular, I look forward to the assessment of the Return on Investment of the GI Bill at for-profit colleges as compared to public and non-profit colleges.

Sincerely,



Mark Takano  
Acting Ranking Member  
House Committee on Veterans Affairs