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June 19, 2020

Mr. Tom Garin
Director
Statistics and Analytics Service
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20571

Dear Director Garin:

I am delighted to hear of the interagency progress between VA's Statistics and Analytics Service, VA's Education Service, the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Defense, and National Student Clearinghouse to share data on GI Bill usage and veterans' student records. This data will be integral in the preparation of reports by the American Institutes for Research, an organization that has received Special Sworn Status from the Census Bureau to conduct research. As Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, member of the House Education and Labor Committee, and a former educator, I look forward to the improved coordination within the Federal government on behalf of student veterans.

For too long, federal data has been siloed at agencies. By sharing interagency data, it will better inform our understanding of veterans' usage of the GI Bill and their resulting student outcomes, as well as their economic standing and employment outcomes. The data will be important for the nation's understanding of the return on investment of the GI Bill. I am also glad to hear that the study will include veterans who were eligible for the GI Bill, but did not use the benefits. It will be helpful for the Committee to understand if veterans who did not use their GI Bill are struggling economically or not. My Committee eagerly awaits your findings.

Sincerely,



Mark Takano
Chairman
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs