

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

B-234 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin
Chair, Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0044

Dear Assemblymember Irwin,

I write in regard to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 12 (April 15, 2021), currently before the Senate committee for review.

First, I urge all California legislators in both the Assembly and the Senate to reach out to my office if you ever have questions or concerns about federal legislation enacted by the House Veterans Affairs Committee, which I Chair. The House Veterans' Affairs Committee undertakes careful review of all federal legislation before us and we could easily resolve any concerns or questions you may have prior to your undertaking a Resolution regarding our work.

In regard to the federal Protect the GI Bill Act, please know this legislation underwent two years of Congressional hearings and analysis, with extremely careful drafting by federal experts in the GI Bill and was enacted with the unanimous and vigorous support of the nation's largest veterans and military service organizations and the technical assistance of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

I understand your concerns that the California bar has a higher "cut rate" than other states, leading some California law schools to have bar passage rates that fail to meet the standards of the American Bar Association. I encourage you to work with the California bar to ensure more California law schools meet the standards of the American Bar Association. My Committee's responsibility is to protect the nation's veterans and their hard-earned GI Bill, in particular their eligibility to sit for the bar exam in any state by virtue of attending a law school recognized by the American Bar Association.

My staff stand ready to be of assistance to you as you seek to understand the federal GI Bill statute.

Sincerely,



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress