July 02, 2021

TO: The Honorable Mark Stone, Chair, Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Thomas J. Umberg, Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Bob Archuleta, Chair, Senate Committee, Military & Veterans Affairs
The Honorable Jacqui Irwin, Chair, Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs
The Honorable Connie M. Leyva, Chair, Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Jose Medina, Chair, Committee on Higher Education

FROM: The Nation’s Leading Military and Veteran-Serving Organizations

RE: California Legislature Assembly Joint Resolution No. 12

To the Honorable Chairs of the California Legislature:

We, the undersigned, understand that certain California law schools that failed to achieve accreditation from the American Bar Association are pushing for a California resolution calling on Congress to undo the federal Protect the GI Bill Act. Please know the Protect the GI Bill Act was, and is, supported by more than 40 of the nation’s largest veterans and military service organizations. We urge you to stand with our organizations and support the Protect the GI Bill Act.

Very sincerely,

AMSUS, The Society Of Federal Healthcare Professionals

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

Army Aviation Association of America

Military Child Education Coalition

Blue Star Families

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Campaign to Protect Student Veterans

National Military Family Association

High Ground Veterans Advocacy

Deshauna Barber

Service Women’s Action Network
Student Veterans of America

Swords to Plowshares

Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors

U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association & Enlisted Association

Veterans and Military Families for Progress

Veterans Education Success

Veterans for Common Sense

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Vietnam Veterans of America
Dear Chairman Isakson, Ranking Member Tester, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your many years of strong leadership for America's veterans. We remain indebted to you for all you have accomplished.

For nearly a decade, Veterans and Military Service Organizations have been asking for veterans and other military-connected students to have the same rights as Title IV students.

Thankfully, parity for veterans and military-connected students is finally close to reality with the bipartisan, unanimously-enacted House Veterans Affairs Committee’s bill, HR 4625. We are so grateful. Please support HR 4625 in your committee. This important legislation provides the following provisions to support and protect GI Bill students:

- Restores veterans’ and military-connected students’ education benefits if their school suddenly closes (providing parity with students protected under Title IV);
- Requires schools, not students, to repay tuition overpayments since schools receive tuition funds directly from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) (providing parity with students protected under Title IV);
- Protects veterans’ and military-connected students’ education benefits from schools terminated by the Education Department (ED). Earlier this year, ED terminated Argosy for stealing Title IV federal student aid, but VA did not have statutory authority to protect veterans’ education benefits;
- Requires common-sense oversight of schools following punitive action by federal or state government or the accreditor; and
- Strengthens existing statutes to ensure VA compliance.

We humbly request your leadership to ensure this bill’s passage as soon as possible. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this legislation.
We thank you.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Air Force Association
American Legion
Army Aviation Association of America
Association of the United States Army
Blue Star Families
Commissioned Officers Assn. of the US Public Health Service, Inc
Fleet Reserve Association
High Ground Veterans Advocacy
Ivy League Veterans Council
The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

Air Force Sergeants Association
AMVETS
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals
Association of the United States Navy
Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association
Disabled American Veterans
Gold Star Wives of America
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

John L. Ballantyne
Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Military Child Education Coalition
The Mission Continues

Service 2 School

Student Veterans of America

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

The Retired Enlisted Association

Veterans Education Success

Veterans Student Loan Relief Fund
VetoFirst, a program of United Spinal Association

Richard E. Weilman
Vietnam Veterans of America