Good afternoon to the Honorable Members and your staffs:

I speak with you about Assembly Joint Resolution No. 12, and wish to register the strong opposition of many veterans organizations; more than 40 of which worked with Congress to enact the Protect the GI Bill Act, which ensures veterans have access to education respected nationwide.

In 2006, I joined the United States Marine Corps, a step that landed me at Recruit Depot - San Diego. Then, at Camp Pendleton, the training was expectedly arduous, but I grew fond of the beauty and opportunity available in California.

Today, I serve at an organization called Veterans Education Success, and live and work in Virginia with my family.

In an economy that switches on a dime, the mobility of our veterans and their families is paramount. The Protect the GI Bill Act in its entirety ensures that GI Bill benefits lead to a degree that has mobility in the job market. This is especially important for military families who frequently relocate across state lines.

AJR-12 is a resolution to protect law schools that other states view as unaccredited; it is not a resolution to protect the interests of veterans. These are institutions not accredited by a nationally-recognized accreditor, and their numbers tell you all you need to know1:

- Over 25% have been placed on probation through July 1, 2022, due to a noncompliant minimum passage rate--or have lost accreditation entirely.2
- None of these schools met the minimum American Bar Association bar passage rate of 75% this past year.3
- The website for one school is “lawdegree.com,” a recruiting tactic practiced by many lead-generator sites, some who notoriously operated websites including GIBill.com and Army.com; both were shut down by law enforcement.4, 5
- And one final example, the University of West Los Angeles: according to the State Bar’s published Exam Statistics, UWLA has a reported bar passage rate of just 9%.6

I respectfully request you stand with veterans organizations nationwide, not with the law schools protecting “lawdegree.com” as one of their own.

Thank you for your consideration.

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2 ibid.
3 ibid.