

December 5, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. Minority Leader,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing millions of veterans, service members, families, and survivors, we want to express our strong opposition to Section 302(a) of H.R. 6951, the *College Cost Reduction Act*. This provision would repeal the 90/10 Rule, along with the veteran education loophole fix, an important protection for our nation's veterans and all beneficiaries using Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits, like the GI Bill.

For years, our organizations fought to pass legislation to set limits on the amount of federal funds that for-profit higher education institutions could receive. The 90/10 Rule limits schools to receive not more than 90 percent of their funding from Title 4 grants and loans and at least 10 percent from non-federal funding. A loophole of the 90/10 Rule excluded VA benefits from the federal funding designation. In 2021, bipartisan legislation passed into law to fix this problem and the final regulations followed in 2022.

Closing the 90/10 loophole was a necessary protection for our nation's veterans and all beneficiaries of VA education benefits. Without this protection, predatory schools would be able to target these students, seeing them as dollar signs to boost their profits. We must protect this important population from bad actors and safeguard taxpayer dollars. We urge that Section 302(a) of H.R. 6951, the *College Cost Reduction Act*, be removed from the legislation before its final consideration on the Union Calendar, as presently scheduled.

Respectfully,

Air Force Sergeants Association  
AMVETS  
Blue Star Families  
Commissioned Officers Association of the  
USPHS  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America  
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of  
America  
Military Child Education Coalition  
Military Officers Association of America  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Modern Military Association of America

National Military Family Association  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Student Veterans of America  
Swords to Plowshares  
The American Legion  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors  
Veterans Education Success  
Veterans for Common Sense  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United  
States  
Vietnam Veterans of America

cc:

Virginia Foxx, Chair,  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Education and the Workforce Committee

Mike Bost, Chair,  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Veterans' Affairs Committee

March 11, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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American GI Forum of the U.S.  
AMVETS  
Black Veterans Project  
Blue Star Families  
Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America  
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America  
Marine Corps Reserve Association  
Military Chaplains Association  
Military Child Education Coalition  
Military Family Advisory Network  
Military Officers Association of America  
Modern Military Association of America  
National Association of American Veterans, Inc.  
National Military Family Association  
No Greater Sacrifice

Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Service Women's Action Network  
Student Veterans of America  
Swords to Plowshares  
The American Legion  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors  
Travis Manion Foundation  
U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association  
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association & Enlisted Association  
Veterans Education Success  
Veterans for Common Sense  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
Vietnam Veterans of America

cc:

Virginia Foxx, Chair, House Education and the Workforce Committee  
Mike Bost, Chair, House Veterans' Affairs Committee

March 5, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

On behalf of the servicemembers, veterans, and their families and survivors we represent, thank you for closing the 90/10 loophole in the reconciliation package. As the attached [letter](#) shows, closing the 90/10 loophole has long been a top priority for military and veteran serving organizations. This is even more imperative now as COVID has [increased](#) predatory colleges' targeting of military-connected students. Closing the loophole removes the recruiting target from the backs of military-connected students and protects taxpayer funds from propping up failing colleges. Too many colleges have closed and left veterans with wasted GI Bill benefits and nothing to show for it.

Sincerely,



AMSUS, Society of Federal Health Professionals



Blue Star Families



Army Aviation Association of America



Coast Guard Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association



Air Force Sergeants Association



Code of Support Foundation



Association of the United States Army



Fleet Reserve Association



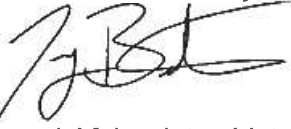
AMVETS

Nancy Menagh

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.



High Ground Advocacy



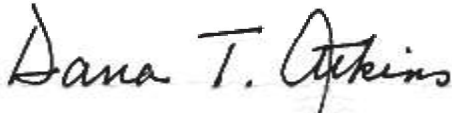
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America



Jewish War Veterans of America



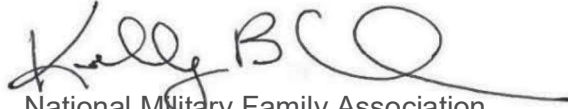
Military Child Education Coalition



Military Officers Association of America



Military Order of the Purple Heart



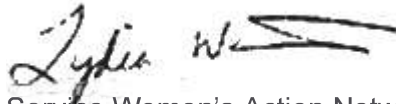
National Military Family Association



Paralyzed Veterans of America



Sea Service Family Foundation



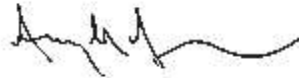
Service Women's Action Network



Service to School



Student Veterans of America



Swords to Plowshares



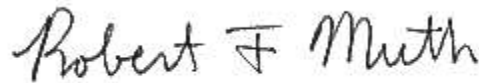
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors



Travis Manion Foundation




The Retired Enlisted Association



University of San Diego School of Law,  
Veterans Legal Clinic



US Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers  
Association & Enlisted Association



VetsFirst, United Spinal Association



Veterans Education Success



Veterans for Common Sense



Vietnam Veterans of America

October 19, 2019

**For Immediate Release**

Contact:

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Lauren Augustine | Vice President of Government Relations (SVA) | (703) 772-9919

Barrett Y. Bogue | Senior Communication Advisor | (202) 670-5587

**Veterans & Military Service Organizations Response to  
Senator Alexander's Higher Education Legislation**

**Washington, D.C.** – Chairman Alexander's statement to pursue a piecemeal approach to a reauthorized Higher Education Act (HEA) is a disappointing departure from the comprehensive negotiations many military and veteran serving organizations have repeatedly asked for on HEA reauthorization. Our disappointment is compounded by his statements ignoring our long-standing, repeated requests to close the 90-10 loophole.

Closing the 90-10 loophole must be included in any HEA efforts, a priority shared in a [letter](#) earlier this year signed by 37 organizations. Ignoring such a long-standing and widely supported request to close the 90-10 loophole and bring parity to student protections for military-connected students hurts service members, veterans, and their families. Not closing the 90-10 loophole is a deal-breaker for military and veteran serving organizations.

While we appreciate Chairman Alexander communicating a willingness to continue conversations surrounding HEA, we hope he will indeed work across the aisle to develop a bipartisan, comprehensive HEA that puts the needs and interests of students at the center of policy. We have made continued efforts to meet with Chairman Alexander and his staff to work collaboratively on this process and hope those requests are accepted soon.

Air Force Sergeants Association  
The American Legion  
AMVETS  
Army Aviation Association of America  
Association of Military Surgeons of the US  
Blue Star Families  
The Chief Warrant & Warrant Officers Association, U. S. Coast Guard  
Code of Support Foundation  
Fleet Reserve Association  
High Ground Veterans Advocacy  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America  
Ivy League Veterans Council  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc  
Military Child Education Coalition  
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)  
National Military Family Association  
Non Commissioned Officers Association  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Service to School  
Service Women's Action Network  
Student Veterans of America  
Swords to Plowshares  
TREA: The Enlisted Association  
The Mission Continues  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors  
United States Army Warrant Officers Association

U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association & Enlisted Association  
Veterans for Common Sense  
Veterans Education Success  
Veterans Legal Clinic, University of San Diego Law School  
Veterans Student Loan Relief Fund  
VetsFirst  
Vietnam Veterans of America

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### **About Veterans Education Success**

*Veterans Education Success (VES) is a veteran advocacy organization whose mission is to advance higher education success for veterans, servicemembers, and military-connected students and to defend the integrity and promise of the GI Bill and other federal education programs for veterans and servicemembers. VES offers policy expertise to policymakers and conducts non-partisan research on issues of concern to student veterans, including student outcomes and debt levels. VES also offers free legal services, advice, and college and career counseling to servicemembers, veterans, their survivors, and families using federal education benefits, and helps veterans participate in their democracy by engaging with their Congressional representatives. Additional information is available at [www.vetsedsuccess.org](http://www.vetsedsuccess.org).*

May 2, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Chairman  
House Committee on Education & the  
Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Education & the  
Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Scott, and Ranking Members Murray and Foxx,

On behalf of the 37 undersigned organizations representing the interests of more than 2 million military-connected current students in higher education, we write to ensure that reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) increases college access and improves college completion for our nation's service members, veterans, and their family members.

Those who have served their country have earned the ability to pursue higher education credentials, with the reasonable expectation that they can trust the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) stamp of approval that a program is worth their hard-earned benefits. For military-connected students, the need to trust ED's approval is heightened since both the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) rely on ED's gatekeeping to ensure quality in higher education programs.

Thousands of military-connected students have been significantly impacted with the recent closures of institutions such as ITT Tech, Corinthian, Virginia College, Art Institutes and Argosy Universities. In the last year alone, 1,230 college campuses have closed. Impacted military-affiliated students have turned to military and veteran service organizations to help them move forward. We have worked to help them find housing after having been evicted from their homes and offered financial aid to pay for bills or buy groceries when their monthly housing allowance is unexpectedly ended when these institutions close. We have helped them apply for borrower's defense, closed school discharge, and for reinstatement of their GI Bill benefits. No student deserves to be put in this situation. That is why we are imploring Congress to strengthen and enhance quality and accountability in the reauthorization of the HEA.

A top priority for military and veteran service organizations is for Congress to finally close the unintended 90/10 loophole. Closing the loophole creates parity for military-connected students using their education benefits with those students using Title IV funds. It is inconsistent to protect some federal funds (Title IV) from low performing schools and not others (VA and DoD).

Closing the loophole will also protect taxpayer funds. Congress designed the 90/10 rule to be a market viability test to protect taxpayers from artificially propping up a failing college of such low quality that no employer or private-paying student is willing to pay for it. As the Supreme Court explained about the rule's precursor, it is "a device intended by Congress to allow the free market mechanism to operate and

weed out those institutions [which] could survive only by the heavy influx of Federal payments."<sup>1</sup> Closing the loophole to include all federal funds would honor the congressional intent of the law requiring a minimum of 10 percent of funding coming from private dollars versus a government source.


The Higher Education Act reauthorization also provides Congress the opportunity to maintain minimum student protections like Borrower Defense for veterans and other students who have been defrauded by a college, and for which ample bipartisan law enforcement evidence exists.<sup>2</sup>

It's also an opportunity for bipartisan leaders in Congress to agree on minimum quality from colleges, including bipartisan requirements such as reducing opportunities for fraud, leaving students better off for having attended college instead of worse off, and ensuring the majority of federal student aid is spent educating students.

We look forward to working with Congress on a bipartisan comprehensive reauthorization of the HEA that ensures better gatekeeping, quality, and student protections.

Attached please find details on these recommendations.

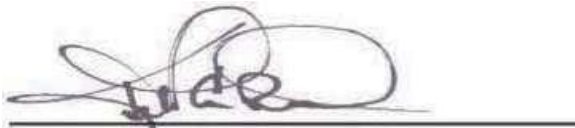
Sincerely,



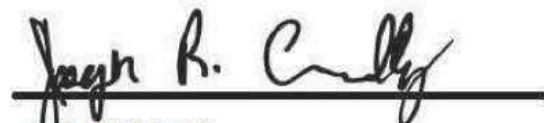
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals




The American Legion



Air Force Sergeants Association



AMVETS



Army Aviation Association of America



Armed Forces Retirees Association

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<sup>1</sup> See *Cleland v. Nat'l College of Business*, 435 US 213 (1978).

<sup>2</sup> See Law Enforcement Actions Against Predatory Colleges (Jan 2019), available at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/556718b2e4b02e470eb1b186/t/5c5f5823a4222fa3c7d4c20d/1549752355856/Law+Enforcement+Actions+Ag+Predatory+Colleges.Jan2018.pdf>



Association of the United States Army



Association of the United States Navy



Blue Star Families



Chief Warrant and Warrant officers Association



Fleet Reserve Association



High Ground Veterans Advocacy



Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America



Ivy League Veterans Council



Jewish War Veterans of the USA



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



Military Officers Association of America



Military Order of the Purple Heart



Non Commissioned Officers Assn.  
of the United States of America



National Military Family Association



San Diego University Veterans Law Clinic



Service to School

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