RECONSTRUCTING POLICY IN HIGHER EDUCATION FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS.

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15 new provisions of the Forever GI Bill went into effect on August 1, 2018.

Eliminates 15 year time limit (January 1, 2013)

Recipients of Purple Heart eligible for full post-9/11 for 36 months

Increase benefits for veterans pursuing STEM degrees

DEA Program’s entitlement dropped from 45 months to 36 months.

Expansion of Yellow Ribbon Program
DOD POLICY CHANGE ON TRANSFERRING BENEFITS

Policy is due to retention risks in time of increased growth/demand of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Effective July 12, 2019

Service members must be currently serving and have a minimum of 6 years time in service and no more than 16 years.

Dependents must be 18 or younger when transferring benefits.

Still requires a 4-year reenlistment commitment from service member.

Coast Guard, though under Homeland Security, will follow under new DoD policy.
Repeals existing protections for military-connected students from predatory practices by for-profit colleges.

- **90/10 Rule**
- **Gainful Employment**
- **Cuts Public Service Loan Forgiveness program**

Eliminate the 90/10 Rule, loophole which allows GI Bill funds to count towards the 10% of “non-federal revenue” for institutions.

Allow VA and DOD educational benefits to be identified as federal funds.

86 organizations signed a letter in opposition to provisions.
H.R. 5649 Transition Improvement Act – passed House

Legislation caps flight training programs at $23,571.94 a year.

Between FY 13-14, the number of student veterans who took flight training courses at public institutions rose by 9%, while the total costs to the GI Bill rose by 87%.

In 2016, 1,700 veterans enrolled in flight programs - $48.5 million

Mandated minimum flight hours: 1,500 hours

Veterans may not be able to accrue enough flight hours on the GI Bill for entry-level jobs in commercial aviation.
Acceptance & transferring of military credits to higher education is one of the largest hurdles for student veterans.

Recent study found that only 36% of student veterans received any credit for military service/training.

On average, veterans receive only 3 credits awarded from military service/training – equivalent of a single college course.

Senator Chris Coons (D-Del) introduced the Military Learning for Credit Act (S.3318) – allows veterans to use GI Bill benefits to cover cost of CLEP and other standardized test programs to test for academic credit.

Legislation does not authorize new funds but provides another use for existing benefits to support veterans.
Forever GI Bill only tracks priority enrollment policy on GI Bill Comparison Tool.

Several states have mandated priority enrollment for GI Bill users.

Work to create a universal standard for priority enrollment for all GI Bill users in higher education.

Benefits to Institutions:

- Allows SCOs to process claims earlier
- Helps ensure payments arrive in timely matter
- Helps mitigate VA delays
- Guaranteed funds to institution
- Increases enrollment, retention and graduation
- Streamlines education & gets veterans in job market
QUESTIONS?
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