



VETERANS EDUCATION SUCCESS

May 9, 2016

Senator Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
United State Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Veterans Education Success strongly supports the numerous, commonsense education provisions of the Veteran's First Act. In particular, I want to highlight several provisions, which we believe will help protect veterans and their hard earned GI Bill educational benefits:

Sec. 402: provides a pathway for veterans to regain their wasted GI Bill education benefits when a school such as Corinthian abruptly closes, leaving veterans without degrees and the immediate loss of their housing benefits.

Sec. 425: protects veterans from pursuing worthless degrees at schools that lack the appropriate accreditation to obtain a job.

Sec. 426: restructures compliance surveys to ensure that schools participating in the GI Bill are in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

Sec. 410: requires schools to report annually on the academic progress of veterans, including graduation rates.

We also want to commend the inclusion in the Bill of important GI Bill provisions that address currently deployed National Guard and Reserve member, those receiving medical care, and the expansion of benefits for survivors eligible for the GI Bill under the Fry scholarship program.

We urge you to negotiate with the House on ways to pay for the Bill with the goal of

preserving veterans access to veterans education benefits that addresses not only tuition and fees but veterans ability to provide for their families as they transition to the civilian workforce.

Thank you for your work and leadership on behalf of all veterans, their families, and their survivors who use the GI Bill.

Sincerely,

Walter Ochinko
Policy Director
Veterans Education Success