
NATIONAL MILITARY **NMVA** & VETERANS ALLIANCE
STRENGTH THROUGH COLLABORATION

July 18th, 2017

The Honorable Phil Roe, M.D.
Chairman
Veterans Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tim Walz
Ranking Member
Veterans Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Roe and Ranking Member Walz,

The National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA), a non-partisan advocacy group comprised of both Veterans' and military service organizations, writes to communicate our support for H.R. 3218, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017. This important legislation seeks to fix many of the current issues with the Post-9/11 GI Bill, while also guaranteeing all student veterans have access to the benefits they earned.

We believe that all veterans have earned educational assistance through their service to our country. Still, too many are being left behind. The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance alleviates these problems through many measures, including addressing issues for members of the National Guard and Reserve, Purple Heart recipients, survivors and families of the fallen, and students who experienced sudden school closures including those at Corinthian Colleges and ITT Technical Institutes.

Additionally, the removal of the 15-year time limit on usage of the benefit will make this truly a lifetime benefit. In addition to these critical components, the proposal would achieve a long list of urgent changes, including but not limited to: extension of the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Education (VACOE), extension of the VA Work-Study Program, additional funds for the Veterans Success on Campus (VSOC) program, much-needed funding for State Approving Agencies, and resources for the Veterans Benefits Administration's IT needs.

NMVA stands firmly behind this important legislation, and looks forward to working with you to ensure its final passage.

Sincerely,



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National Military and Veterans Alliance Member Organizations Supporting this Legislation

American Logistics Association
American Military Retirees Association
American Military Society
American Retirees Association
AMVETS
Armed Forces Marketing Council
Association of the United States Navy
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Order of the World Wars
Reserve Officers Association
Society of Military Widows
Square Deal for Veterans
The Flag & General Officers Network
The Retired Enlisted Association
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors