

HR 4508 has several provisions that would negatively impact veterans in higher education and risk their hard-earned, taxpayer-funded, GI Bill benefits. Several Veteran Service Organizations have issued statements opposing provisions in the bill that are detrimental to veterans, including: *The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Student Veterans of America, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Veterans Education Success, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Wounded Warrior Project.*

Repeal of Key Accountability Provisions

In the 2017 fiscal year, taxpayers funded \$4.8 billion in tuition and fees for more than 625,000 student veterans. For-profit schools represent over 75% of schools getting more than a quarter billion dollars; for a total of \$6 billion since 2009. Given the outsized presence of these schools in the GI Bill space, additional scrutiny is necessary to ensure we are not incentivizing them to put their profits above veterans' wellbeing. HR 4508 weakens the federal government's ability to conduct oversight over the billions of federal dollars they allocate on an annual basis to for-profit schools. Specifically, the bill:

- **repeals the gainful employment requirement** and for-profit schools and vocational schools will no longer be required to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation. This allows bad actors in the for-profit sector to prey on veterans' GI Bill dollars without providing a marketable education.
- **restricts the ability** of the Department of Education to require that letters of credit be posted as part of annual **determinations of financial responsibility**. This allows financially shaky schools to slip through the cracks, collect GI Bill funds for a time, and then when they close, leave veterans without degrees—having wasted their valuable benefits and potentially years of their lives.

The recent closures of ITT Tech and Corinthian clearly demonstrate that insufficient oversight results in harm to veterans. The 2017 Forever GI Bill was a historic bipartisan effort that massively expanded the benefits we provide to student veterans. It is imperative to safeguard this effort and ensure that we are not funneling these GI bill dollars into the pockets of unscrupulous schools at the expense of our veterans.

Elimination of Public Service Loan Forgiveness

HR 4508 terminates the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program for future borrowers. This hurts service members in the Armed Forces, and also veterans who—after their time in the military—choose to continue serving the public in government positions, including as first responders and law enforcement officials. Given the tens of thousands of currently unfilled vacancies in the VA, the elimination of this program also harms veterans who depend on the VA for care.

Removal of Support from Programs for Students with Disabilities

HR 4508 eliminates two programs and cuts funding to two centers that collect and disseminate critical information about students with disabilities in higher education. In fact, the bill not only cuts the funding but pools it so that the two centers, designed for different purposes for different disabilities, must compete for a single pot of money. Many veterans return from serving our country with disabilities. By cutting these vital programs and grants, this bill dishonors that sacrifice by making it harder for veterans with disabilities to rebuild their lives.