

Thank you, Chairman Bost and Ranking Member Takano for convening a Members Day where I am here to speak to you about the importance of supporting our student veterans. This critical issue needs your attention now more than ever, as too many of our nation's heroes are not getting the support they need and deserve.

Student veterans often face financial difficulties, academic challenges, and mental health issues due to their service in the armed forces. Those issues can become even harder to deal with without proper support for our veteran population. It is up to us - all of us in this room today - to ensure that student veterans receive the assistance they need so that no one gets left behind.

Early this Congress, I was proud to introduce H.R. 1767, the Student Veteran Benefit Restoration Act, which includes **Republican approved amendments**, to establish an across the board process for student veterans to restore their GI Bill education benefits in qualifying instances, such as when a student veterans has been defrauded by an educational institution.

In April, this bill passed with **bipartisan** support during our Economic Opportunity Subcommittee markup. This bill reflects years of **bipartisan** advocacy led by the Members on this committee and the student veteran community, including advocates like Student

Veterans of America and the Veterans Education Success who have been unfairly impacted by a longstanding inequity in the law.

Our veterans have rightfully earned their GI Bill benefits and they should rightfully be restored when bad actors have targeted our vets to make a profit off of them. They deserve our support for their academic aspirations. Our bill seeks to provide that support in a meaningful way.

That is why I urge the Committee to continue all efforts to support this crucial legislation and bring H.R. 1767 to the full committee during our next markup to guarantee that my constituents' voices - like Carrie, Christopher, Andy, Bryan T., and Brian W. - are heard.

I am committed to advancing this bill forward urgently and have prioritized listening and working across the aisle with my Republican colleagues to make critical compromises to ensure that this bill reflects this Committee's **bipartisan** commitment to veterans and have earned the support of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Veterans Education Success, and Student Veterans of America.

Please join me in supporting our student veterans and passing this bill with the Republican-inspired amendments. Let us work together for a brighter future for all of our veterans and our nation.

Thank you for your time and I yield back.