

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS
(NAVPA)**

SUBMITTED BY KEITH GLINDEMANN VICE PRESIDENT

BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (EO)

Hearing on:

**“Legislative Hearing on H.R.456; H.R.473; H.R. 474; H.R.475; H.R.476; H.R.643;
H.R.1038; H.R.1141; H.R.1187; draft bill, “To amend title 38, United States Code, to
authorize the Secretary of VA, in awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or
services, to give a preference to offerors that employ veterans;” and a draft bill, “Service
Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act” “A Review of Higher Education
Opportunities for the Newest Generation on Veterans”**

March 24, 2015

Introduction

Chairman Wenstrup, Ranking Member Takano, and members of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, the National Association of Veterans Program Administrators (NAVPA) is pleased to be invited to provide written comments for this hearing. NAVPA is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization founded in 1975 by school certifying officials. Our organization represents close to 400 educational institutions nationwide. We voluntarily serve NAVPA in an effort to better serve the veterans on our campuses.

NAVPA recognizes the significant higher education opportunities that are afforded this generation of veterans. We are committed, in partnership with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, to ensure the success of the programs funded to provide educational opportunities for our veterans and their family members.

H.R. 475

SEC. 6. Ability for Schools to See Remaining Entitlement

NAVPA endorses SEC. 6. Provision of Information Regarding Veteran Entitlement to Educational Assistance. This provision would give School Certifying Officials the ability to see what remaining entitlement a veteran student had remaining. With today's veterans often changing between schools or needing to enroll in programs close to enrollment deadlines the ability to see what GI Bill entitlements a student had remaining would be beneficial to the student and the College/University that they are wanting to attend. Students need to know prior to enrolling how much entitlement they have remaining so that they can make strong financial decisions. If a student does not have enough entitlement they can look at other possible funding sources so that they will not run out of funds prior to the end of term. This can help them to make educated decisions rather than reactionary ones. Additionally it can help schools to make determinations in the applying of Yellow Ribbon funds, and the counseling of students on their financial options.

H.R. 476

SEC. 5. Compliance Surveys

Current statutory requirements require that any institution with at least 300 GI Bill recipients have a compliance survey conducted annually. This requirement is mandated regardless of the results of the prior year's survey. This requirement results in overburdened inspectors revisiting schools that have proven to be good stewards, and in full compliance. NAVPA fully supports H.R. 476 SEC 5. Here it asks for the VA to waive compliance surveys for institutions and establishments that have a record of compliance. This will allow the VA and the State Approving Agencies to concentrate on the institutions most at risk as well as providing more timely compliance surveys for smaller schools. This will help strengthen the survey program as a whole. Additionally this could also allow SAAs to be freed up to provide additional technical assistance and training. We feel that potential compliance issues could be avoided by having better trained SCO's on the front end of the process.

H.R. 1141

SEC. 2. GI Bill Fairness

When our Service Members go to war their dedication to duty, and the risk of life and limb know no separation between Active Duty and Reservists. The missions are performed the same, and dangers are equally faced. Therefore it is only fair that our Reservists who are harmed in the performance of their duties are able to have the time that they are receiving medical care for their injuries count towards their qualifying time for the Post 9/11 GI Bill. What greater support can we show these Service Members who have sacrificed so much that we truly support them. They are not asking to be given anything other than what they have earned. NAVPA urges that Congress look at this carefully and do what is not only correct, but our duty.

Closing

In closing, on behalf of the membership institutions of NAVPA, we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on these very important issues with the committee today. We look forward to working with you on veteran education issues in the future.