

June 13, 2023

Statement for the Record
June 14, 2023, Legislative Hearing
Economic Opportunity Subcommittee
House Veterans Affairs Committee

Chairman Van Orden and Ranking Member Levin:

Thank you both for your championship of veterans – we all succeed when our veterans can access the education benefits they have earned.

I'm proud to sponsor H.R. 3981, the Veterans Education Oversight Expansion Act, which builds on Ranking Member Levin's successful bill, the comprehensive Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.

As you know, many of our nation's veterans have earned federal support to help pay for college, graduate school, and training programs through their GI Bill education benefits. They can even transfer unused benefits to family members in certain cases. Unfortunately, some predatory programs have exploited veterans by aggressively attracting them and their GI Bill benefits to fraudulent, falsified, or substandard programs. The Isakson-Roe Act seeks to rein in these abuses by increasing the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) oversight capacity and restoring benefits to defrauded veterans. The Veterans Education Oversight Expansion Act builds on the successes of Isakson-Roe to improve oversight, foster accountability, and most of all, help our veterans access the quality education they deserve.

To do so, this legislation strengthens the reporting requirements of educational entities that are recipients of GI Bill education benefits. This bill would require educational entities to preemptively report any non-compliance within 30 days; schools that have not reported noncompliance and are found in violation of compliance may face additional penalties. The legislation also allows a veteran's GI Bill education benefits to be restored if an educational entity is found to have acted maliciously (e.g., scams by for-profit predatory colleges) or is otherwise found to be inadequate or ineligible under the discretion of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Finally, the bill requires the VA to create a previously mandated database of risk-based surveys within half a year (180 days). Risk-based surveys of educational entities receiving federal funds ensure that these programs are legitimate, accurately advertised, and properly serving their veteran populations.

I'm proud to state that H.R. 3981 has the endorsements of the American Legion, Black Veterans Project, Blinded Veterans Association, Blue Star Families, Common Defense, Disabled American Veterans, Military Family Advisory Network, Military-Veterans Advocacy, Modern

Military Association of America, National Military Family Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans Education Success, Veterans for Common Sense, Veterans for Peace, Vietnam Veterans of America, Service to School, Student Veterans of America, and Combined Arms.

I hope that my colleagues from all parts of the political spectrum will support this commonsense legislation to ensure our veterans and their benefits are protected and supported. I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for including H.R. 3981 in this legislative hearing, and I look forward to working together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Morgan McGarvey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress