



**STATEMENT OF  
STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA**

**BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**HEARING ON THE TOPIC OF:  
PENDING LEGISLATION**

**January 21, 2026**

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Chairman Van Orden, Ranking Member Pappas, and Members of the Subcommittee: Thank you for inviting Student Veterans of America (SVA) to submit a statement for the record on the legislation pending before you today.

With a mission focused on empowering student veterans, SVA is committed to providing an educational experience that goes beyond the classroom. Through a dedicated and expansive network of on-campus chapters across the country, SVA aims to inspire yesterday's warriors by connecting student veterans with a community of like-minded chapter leaders. Every day these passionate leaders work to provide the necessary resources, network support, and advocacy to ensure student veterans, military-connected students, their families and survivors can effectively connect, expand their skills, and ultimately achieve their greatest potential.

SVA thanks the Subcommittee for considering several pieces of legislation that would impact student veterans, military-connected students, their families, caregivers, and survivors in higher education.

### **H.R. 982, Warriors to Workforce Act**

Given the nation's need to expand its skilled labor pool, some veterans opt to utilize their GI Bill benefits for on-the-job training (OJT) or apprenticeship programs. Current statute dictates that veterans participating in apprenticeship and OJT programs experience a significant decrease in their Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) once they enter the second six months of their program – from 100% to 80%. MHA then drops to 60% after the completion of the first year. The drastic reduction in MHA after the first six months and then again at the one-year mark leads some veterans to consider leaving the program.

Many of the veterans participating in these programs have financial responsibilities outside of themselves and the program, such as families, businesses, housing costs, and others, which are not alleviated in the same way every six months by the potential for income. This situation leads to veterans relying more heavily on other forms of income, such as additional employment, which forces veterans to reprioritize their financial responsibilities over their training.

SVA supports H.R. 982, *Warriors to Workforce Act*, which seeks to increase the MHA to 90% during the second six-month period. This change, if implemented, will significantly alleviate the financial burden on veterans, ensuring they can complete their training without hardship. SVA also advocates for clear and transparent communication with the veteran at the start of the program regarding their MHA at every six-month period of the program, fostering a sense of trust and understanding.

SVA appreciates Chairman Van Orden's commitment to reducing dropout rates and supporting our veterans' success in the Post-9/11 GI Bill apprenticeship and OJT program.

**H.R. 5436, To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit an educational institution from withholding a transcript from an individual who pursued a course or program of education at such institution using Post-9/11 educational assistance.**

SVA supports H.R. 5436 which would prohibit educational institutions from withholding transcripts from an individual who pursued a course or program of education at such institution using Post-9/11 educational benefits.

Withholding a transcript from an individual, particularly one using Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits, creates unnecessary barriers to future academic and employment opportunities and prevents them from fully utilizing their earned educational benefits. Student veterans would be subjected to unnecessary stress and financial hardship because their withheld transcript will prevent them from transferring their credits or applying for employment. Student veterans and their beneficiaries should not be punished by their institutions for a debt owed, when it may have been the result of a processing issue or delay at VA.

SVA would like to thank Representative Mannion and Moylan for their leadership in advancing this important legislation to ensure student veterans and their beneficiaries are not punished in their academic or employment journeys by having their transcripts withheld.

**H.R. 7103, Improving Emerging Tech Opportunities for Veterans Act**

SVA supports H.R. 7103, *Improving Emerging Tech Opportunities for Veterans Act*, which would provide greater opportunities for veterans to pursue education programs involving emerging technologies in the Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) program.

Amending title 38, United States Code, §3699C from “higher technology” to “higher technology and emerging technology” would allow student veterans to pursue programs and seek employment in career fields that may not be encapsulated by VET TEC. This legislation would also encourage collaboration between VA, Department of Labor, industry stakeholders, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations to identify high-demand technology careers, along with the courses veterans need to qualify for them.

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The continued success of veterans in higher education in the Post-9/11 era is no mistake or coincidence. In our Nation’s history, educated veterans have always been the best of a generation and the key to solving our most complex challenges. Today’s student veterans carry this legacy forward.

We thank the Chairman, Ranking Member, and the Subcommittee Members for your time, attention, and devotion to the cause of veterans, military-connected students, their families, caregivers and survivors.