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U.S. House of Representatives

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

364 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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January 14, 2026

The Honorable Douglas A. Collins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Collins:

On Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. ET in room 360 of the Cannon House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Technology Modernization and Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will conduct an oversight hearing entitled, “*Digital G.I. Bill Undelivered: Contracting Challenges and the Need for Acquisition Reform.*” During this hearing, the Subcommittees will examine the Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) Digital G.I. Bill (DGIB) program and how contracting and program management failures contributed to payment disruptions and processing errors affecting beneficiaries. The hearing will examine the circumstances around the solicitation and contract award and determine to what extent VA’s siloed contract and program management organization may have contributed to system failures, schedule delays, and cost overruns. Lastly, the hearing will assess the impact on students and schools and evaluate VA’s communications and contingency planning during implementation of DGIB updates.

We invite Mr. Raymond Tellez, Executive Director, Office of Business Integration, Veterans Benefits Administration, Mr. Robert Kirzow, Director, Procurement Service A, Technology Acquisition Center, Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction, and Mr. Robert Orifici, Executive Director, Benefits and Memorial Services, Office of Information and Technology to testify on behalf of VA.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing Subcommittee Staff Directors Josh Hardy and Halle Sarkisian at Joshua.Hardy@mail.house.gov and Halle.Sarkisian@mail.house.gov, and copying Mr. Nicholas West, Chief Clerk, at Nicholas.West@mail.house.gov. Additionally, each hearing witness must submit a written statement of proposed testimony in PDF format no later than **10:15 a.m. on Monday, February 2, 2026**. Oral testimony should not exceed 5 minutes and should summarize any written remarks. A witness may also introduce into the record any supporting documentation, in accordance with the enclosed guidelines, by emailing Mr. Hardy, Ms. Sarkisian, and Mr. West at the above email addresses.

Under to clause 2(k)(3) of Rule XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights. Witness counsels are only permitted to sit at the witness table if authorized by the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to place any witness under oath. Please be advised that pursuant to 18 U.S. Code § 1001, and regardless of whether an oath is administered, it is a violation of federal criminal law to knowingly and willfully give a false statement to any committee, subcommittee, commission, or office of the Congress. A witness may obtain a transcript copy of their testimony given in a public open session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the Committee.

Accommodation for individuals with disabilities, including assistive listening systems, interpreters, and materials in alternate formats, may be arranged by contacting Committee staff in advance of the hearing (four business days' notice is recommended) at (202) 225-3527.

Upon confirmation of attendance, all witnesses will receive additional instructions on testifying before the Committee. These instructions shall include information for counsel accompanying witnesses.

Should you or your staff have any questions or need additional information, please contact Josh Hardy, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, at Joshua.Hardy@mail.house.gov or Halle Sarkisian, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, at Halle.Sarkisian@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Bauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" written in a simple, slightly slanted font, and the last name "Bauer" written in a more elaborate, flowing cursive style.

Chairman
Subcommittee on Technology Modernization

Cc: The Honorable Derrick Van Orden, Chairman, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity
The Honorable Nikki Budzinski, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Technology
Modernization
The Honorable Chris Pappas, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Economic
Opportunity

Witness Instructions for the Truth in Testimony Disclosure Form

You have been provided with a fillable PDF form. Please complete the form using the following steps:

1. Save the form to a location on your computer or network.
2. Open the form in Adobe Acrobat Reader or a similar PDF reader, such as Nitro or CutePDF.
3. Complete all applicable fields.
4. Save form.
5. Return form to the committee.
6. Follow the committee's guidance about the hearing subject matter and the signature page.
7. Please note that for the purposes of addressing the question related to whether your organization or its affiliates has received any contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government or foreign adversary controlled entity, or an entity or country of particular concern, the Committee utilizes the definition included in P.L. 118-50, Division H, § 2(g)(1) to make a determination whether an entity is "controlled by a foreign adversary." Examples of a foreign adversary-controlled entity include TikTok and ByteDance. To determine "an entity or country of particular concern", the Committee relies on a designation by the Secretary of State.

Truth in Testimony Disclosure Form

In accordance with Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)* of the *Rules of the House of Representatives* and the Rules of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, witnesses are asked to disclose the following information. Please complete this form electronically by filling in the provided blanks.

Committee: _____

Subcommittee: _____

Hearing Date: _____

Hearing Title :

Witness Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Witness Type: Governmental Non-governmental

Are you representing yourself or an organization? Self Organization

If you are representing an organization, please list what entity or entities you are representing:

FOR WITNESSES APPEARING IN A NON-GOVERNMENTAL CAPACITY

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

Are you a fiduciary—including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent—of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing? If so, please list the name of the organization(s) or entities.

Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the hearing's subject matter that you, the organization(s) you represent, or entities for which you serve as a fiduciary have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

Please list any contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government, foreign adversary - controlled entity, or an entity or country of particular concern (as designated by the Secretary of State) and related to the hearing's subject that you, the organization(s) you represent or its affiliates, or entities for which you serve as a fiduciary, have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

- I have attached a written statement of proposed testimony.
- I have attached my curriculum vitae or biography.

* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5), of the U.S. House of Representatives provides:

(5)(A) Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof.

(B) In the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include— (i) a curriculum vitae; (ii) a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the past 36 months by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (iii) a disclosure of whether the witness is a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing.

(C) The disclosure referred to in subdivision (B)(ii) shall include— (i) the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (ii) the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.

(D) Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form 24 hours before the witness appears to the extent practicable, but not later than one day after the witness appears.

False Statements Certification

Knowingly providing materially false information to this committee/subcommittee, or knowingly concealing material information from this committee/subcommittee, is a crime (18 U.S.C. § 1001). This form will be made part of the hearing record.

Witness signature

Date