May 16th, 2022


Chairman Mike Levin
Ranking Member Barry Moore
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity


Re: Modifications to VRRAP and VET TEC

On behalf of the undersigned group of currently approved VET TEC providers (VET TEC Working Group), we urge this committee to allow the VET TEC Pilot Program to operate for one full year with full funding prior to expanding the pool of providers to IHL's. This is a critical component of how our Coding schools and post-Secondary schools operate, allowing funding to Veterans in a distance-education learning environment. Veterans are inherently scared and nervous to come back to in-person classes due to the rise in cases of Covid and the current state of the pandemic.

We are doing a disservice to the Veteran community, making them choose a school in their area due to the GI Bill regulations of High Tech Schools not allowed to have the Veteran attend online training, they depend on the VET TEC program for these reasons. This allows them the comfort of knowing they are safe from the pandemic and that they will be allowed to choose the program they see fit for long-term gainful employment that wouldn't otherwise be available to them due to in-person regulations from the Covid restrictions being released and the online restrictions of the GI Bill and High Tech, Post- Secondary institutions.
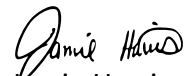
The Veteran community has voiced their concern in the matter that they are leaning more toward a High Tech or Post-Secondary institutional training as it is a shorter- faster means to gainful employment with sustainable or higher than average entry level employment in the Technology Industry. Four-year degree universities are not for all Veterans and in fact, most face difficulty with such a long stent of schooling needed, while trying to transition into civilian life or support their families.

DSDT had a reported 88% job placement rate in its' most recent reporting year. Our schools follow our State and local guidelines of online training and if our state or National Accreditation company says we are allowed to train online, the Department of Veteran Affairs should consider reviewing and changing these regulations of in-person training once and for all.

VET TEC is one of the only reprieves our schools receive for offering the Veterans online training and without this, our schools will suffer, and the Veterans will suffer and be made to choose a career training that is unattainable for them and their needs due to the pandemic and sustainable career incomes.

We strongly urge Congress to review the policies and hear the voice of the Veteran Community about their concerns of on campus training due to the pandemic or a program that is out of their geographical region they want to attend. The VET TEC program is critical to the operations of our schools and for the Veterans, employers, and communities we serve due to the regulations put in place from the GI Bill. Our schools also show a higher rate of placement data historically year over year from a Four-year degree university. Universities or IHL's are given full authority to enroll a GI Bill student for distance education or online training and our Coding, or Post- secondary schools are being discriminated against without any further discussion. This is perceived as an unfair practice to the schools and the Veteran community.

Sincerely,

Jamie Harris, Founder and CEO, DSDT