



October 11, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander:

On behalf of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. (EANGUS) and Veterans for Career Education (VCE), we applaud your efforts to advance a bipartisan package of bills related to the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA). The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. (EANGUS) represents the interests and concerns of well over one million members of the Army and Air National Guard, their family members, Veterans, and survivors. VCE, founded by veterans, advocates for freedom of choice among veterans, servicemembers and their families at private career, technical and trade schools.

We are particularly pleased to see you remain focused on bipartisan legislation. Proposals to manipulate the 90/10 rule remain divisive within the veterans' community and consistently lack bipartisan support. The calls for manipulating the 90/10 rule has only become more partisan. It is not even about 90/10 anymore. We've seen partisan proposals to change the rule to 85/15¹, 80/20² and to cut off military and veteran education benefits at private career, technical and trade schools altogether.³

Our organizations represent military-affiliated students in the Guard, Reserves, and student veterans at private career, technical and trade schools. These veterans and military-affiliated students are choosing to use their hard-earned benefits at the schools of their choice. The careers they seek are in the fields of allied health, nursing, HVAC, commercial truck driving, aviation maintenance, auto technology, cosmetology, welding, cyber security and so many other in-demand programs.⁴ We believe the right to

¹ S. 1775: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1775/text>;

S. 867: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/867/text>

² H.R. 3369: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3369>

³ Elizabeth Warren's presidential campaign proposal on higher education calls for banning federal dollars, including military and veteran benefits, at proprietary career, tech and trade schools:

<https://medium.com/@teamwarren/im-calling-for-something-truly-transformational-universal-free-public-college-and-cancellation-of-a246cd0f910f>

⁴ Over 300 success stories of student veterans, servicemembers and their families who attended a postsecondary career school: https://www.career.org/uploads/7/8/1/1/78110552/cecu_veterans_6x9_new.pdf.

Veteran video testimonials: 1) Army veteran Wendell Johnson and HVCA student who says 4-year college was not for him: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=24&v=4jewrXom7F8; 2) Navy veteran Jeff Riley who became homeless and found Automotive technology to be helpful:



choose a school and program of study belongs to the veteran and no policy should limit that freedom of choice—especially the partisan proposals aimed at manipulating 90/10.

We remain supportive of your bipartisan work on HEA reauthorization and welcome the opportunity to work with you on holding all schools accountable.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Yoakum".

Frank Yoakum
Sergeant Major
U.S. Army (Retired)
Executive Director
EANGUS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Dakduk".

Michael Dakduk
U.S. Marine Corps Veteran
Co-Chair
Veterans for Career Education (VCE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RlmuVnnw47c>; 3) Navy veteran Joshua Browder earned a credential in surgical technology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiEL6v5xAbk>; 4) Coast Guard veteran and former police office Adam Sudweeks in nursing is not supportive of 90/10: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9ZN1nM5F30>; and, 5) Veterans Education Project: Veterans should be able to choose how they use the benefits they've earned: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EolXrWpnwll&feature=youtu.be&app=desktop>