



PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

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VVA Calls for ‘Forever GI Bill’ that Can’t be Stolen from Veterans

(Washington, DC) – “VVA's founding principle is never again will one generation of veterans abandon another,” said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America. He continued, “That’s why we’re fighting to see today’s GI Bill improved so that it doesn’t leave behind this generation’s most vulnerable. Right now, with an arbitrary 15-year time limit and an exclusion of veterans with administrative discharges, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is failing those veterans who are experiencing the toughest transitions.”

On April 26, 2017, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity of the House Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a hearing to discuss several bills designed to close loopholes in the GI Bill--including one which would have veterans invest in their educational benefits, unless they choose to opt out. This model is similar to the \$100 monthly pay deduction that many service members still contribute to for the infrequently used Montgomery GI Bill.

Veterans from the Post-9/11 generation with PTSD and other service-related illnesses or injuries are ineligible for transition benefits, such as the GI Bill, due to administrative discharges. Upward of 10 percent of recently discharged Marines have been excluded from these benefits and services, compounding the significant barriers faced during transition, especially for those with PTSD.

VVA is thankful to Chairman Roe, Committee leadership, and staff for taking seriously our suggestions to make the GI Bill proposal an insurance policy that protects every single veteran’s successful transition.

“We would like to see a true ‘Forever GI Bill,’ modeled after the ‘1944 GI Bill of Rights,’ which couldn’t be robbed from a veteran because of an administrative discharge,” said Rowan. “If this pay-in guarantees that veterans can’t have their GI Bill stolen from them without the due process rights of a General Court Martial, and doesn’t disappear after some arbitrary time limit, then we’ll strongly support it.”

Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation’s only congressionally chartered veterans’ service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. In keeping with its founding principle, “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another,” VVA aggressively advocates for all veterans.