



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0916

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Denis McDonough
Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20571

Dear President Biden and Secretary McDonough,

I am writing to urge you to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs update its guidance to help prevent student veterans from losing access to valuable G.I. Bill credits.

As you may know, last year, my bill, the Veterans Eligible to Transfer School (VETS) Credit Act, was signed into law. This new law will assist student veterans affected by the cancellation of their educational program or the closure of their school by providing information instructing them how to reclaim G.I. Bill benefits and transfer them to a new institution.

While current law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to restore G.I. Bill benefits (up to 12 credits) to eligible student veterans whose schools close or program ends in the middle of a semester, the process can be very confusing and oftentimes leaves veterans unable to easily transfer their earned credits to a new school.

Unfortunately, as of today, the VA website for G.I. Bill Restoration, and the related application, are out of date and no longer in compliance with federal law. This is particularly important and timely because the Living Arts College in Raleigh, North Carolina, has recently closed and will not resume classes.

The VA's delay in updating its website and relevant forms is unacceptable and could adversely impact our nation's student veterans and their ability to take advantage of valuable G.I. Bill benefits. We have made a promise to these veterans, and it is our duty to stand by that promise and not allow a school closure to further cause disruptions in their lives and endanger their education.

It is past time for the VA to update both the relevant website about restoration of benefits after school closure and the application to comply with current federal law. If the VA requires additional time to update this website and application, at the very least, the website should be updated to indicate that additional guidance will be forthcoming and the student veterans affected by the Living Arts College closure, and any other school closures that occur while the VA is out of compliance with federal law, should be prioritized for assistance once VA is fully in compliance with the law.

Our brave men and women put it all on the line to defend our country and our way of life. The very least we can do is ensure they are able to receive the full range of benefits they have earned and deserve by virtue of their service.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress