



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

2020 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. • Suite 1975 • Washington, D.C. 20006-1846

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The National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA) has served as the voice of advocacy for veterans in higher education since its founding in 1975. NAVPA's membership now includes 344 Institutions of Higher Learning across 47 states that represent 431,032 veterans. As a leading service organization focused on the veteran, service member, and military family member experience in higher education, NAVPA is involved in training, research, policy development and proposed legislation.

We have seen progress on several of our legislative priorities the session, including the WINGMAN Act, VA Work-study, Reporting fees, Education Equity Act, and the process for reporting outcomes for anyone receiving VA education benefits. The WINGMAN Act provides congressional staff the same access to a veteran's record as the VA to ensure inquiries are expedited and conversations are based on the same information. The WINGMAN Act has already passed the House and is in the Senate for review; VA Work-study contract completions and payments have significantly improved since the VA has moved all actions made by the Regional Processing Office in Atlanta, GA to Muskogee, OK; Reporting fees were included in a law signed in December that ensured the fee would continue to be paid for the next ten years, but at the rate of \$7 and \$12. NAVPA has fought to have this amended in another Bill and we have received a positive response from the Chairmen of both the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs. A recent draft of legislation included a recommendation for fees to increase to \$16 and \$20 per certification; The VA is charged with creating a new reporting requirement for educational Institutions regarding the academic progress for students using the Post-9/11 GI Bill. NAVPA has asked that institutions of higher learning be allowed to provide input regarding the new reporting criteria and delivery method prior to implementation. The VA's Director of Education Services strongly agrees with NAVPA's position, and details of further collaboration are pending.

NAVPA is also monitoring the Education Relief and Restoration Act, which extends benefits to G.I. beneficiaries affected by school closures and has gained support by 18 co-sponsors. The Veterans' Education Equity Act was developed by a bipartisan research committee and calls for anyone using the Post 9/11 GI Bill to receive a housing allowance based on the location of the campus where they physically participate in a majority of classes rather than the location of the institution of higher learning at which an individual is enrolled. There has been recent discussions about the new legislation being referred to as the "Forever GI Bill" and "GI Bill



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3.0,” which has created a lot of speculation and misinformation. A Hearing about proposed changes was scheduled to take place on April 26, but cancelled after public opposition to some of the topics being considered. NAVPA continues to be part of the conversation, but has not taken an official position because there is not a current draft of legislation that has been introduced. We will continue to monitor and participate in discussions that would affect education benefits.

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