



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

May 2, 2012

The Honorable Jim Webb
U.S. Senate
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Webb:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Veterans and Military Families Task Force are pleased to support the Military and Veterans Educational Reform Act of 2012 (S. 2179).

CCD is a coalition of national disability rights, advocacy, consumer, and provider organizations. The Veterans and Military Families Task Force follows issues of concern to veterans with disabilities and military family members with disabilities.

We are deeply concerned over the recruitment and enrollment practices of certain “for-profit” educational institutions that target veterans, members of the military, and their families using Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DOD) education benefits. Under current law, these VA and DOD benefits are viewed as prime revenue sources by unscrupulous for-profit colleges that offer elaborate promises of a high value education and swift entry into a well paid career. However, these schools often fail to reveal their high rates of default, problems that students face in transferring credits to four year non-profit institutions of higher learning, and reluctance on the part of many employers to recognize their degrees.

The Military and Veterans Educational Reform Act requires:

- All programs receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill and Tuition Assistance funding to be Title IV eligible;
- All veteran and military students to be provided critical information to make informed decisions by increasing transparency;
- Educational counseling by VA and DOD;
- Strengthening the process to audit participating schools, and mandatory reviews triggered by risk-based actions;
- The VA and DOD to develop a formal complaint process; and
- Inter-agency information sharing among the VA, DOD, and the Department of Education.

This legislation will be a very positive step in addressing many of the issues that have troubled the veterans and military educational benefits programs. We commend you for introducing this set of reforms and look forward to its passage.

Thank you for your continued leadership in ensuring the protection of educational benefits for our nation's service members and veterans. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Prokop, CCD Veterans Task Force Co-Chair, at (202) 416-7707 or by email at susanp@pva.org; or Heather Ansley, CCD Veterans and Military Families Task Force Co-Chair, at (202) 556-2076, Ext. 7702 or by e-mail at hansley@vetsfirst.org.

Sincerely,

ACCSES

American Association on Health and Disability

American Counseling Association

Brain Injury Association of America

Easter Seals

Mental Health America

National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Directors

National Council on Independent Living

National Disability Rights Network

National Rehabilitation Association

Paralyzed Veterans of America

The Arc

Vets First, a program of United Spinal Association