

Docket ID ED-2012-OPE-0008

Public Comment Submitted to the Education Department

The promise of the GI Bill is to give our nation's veterans - who have sacrificed the most for America - a chance at the American Dream. The GI Bill promises veterans a quality education as thanks for their service. And that service is significant. Some veterans today are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with significant physical and emotional scars.

But some of the programs approved for GI Bill, as for student aid from the Departments of Defense and Education, provide substandard education - as documented by recent investigations and punitive action by the Department of Justice and state Attorneys General. Many career programs provide useful training, but some are not serving students or taxpayers.

The Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs say they are not equipped to make judgment calls about educational quality and that they must rely on the educational judgment of the Education Department to weed out subpar programs.

We, therefore, respectfully request that the Education Department determine how to weed out programs that are substandard. We are not experts in educational quality. All we ask is that you please consider the service and sacrifice of American veterans and servicemembers as you review your rules under the Higher Education Act.

Veterans expect the government not to approve programs if the programs are not worthy of the promise of the GI Bill.

Please also weed out any college programs that lack "programmatic accreditation" such that their graduates are not eligible to even sit for licensing exams - in those fields that require a license (e.g., plumber, electrician, lawyer, and many health jobs). It does not make sense to

approve GI Bill funds and federal student aid for programs whose graduates are not eligible to even try to get a license.

We appreciate your consideration.

American Legion

Association of the U.S. Navy

Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America

Military Officers Association of America

National Guard Association of the U.S.

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Veterans Education Success

Veterans for Common Sense

VetJobs

VetsFirst, an initiative of the United Spinal Association

Vietnam Veterans of America