Policy Priorities
2022-2023

Introduction

In 2022 and beyond, SVA is committed to the next phase of thinking about the GI Bill to elevate the voices of student veterans and support their everyday needs. Our policy priorities stem from direct interactions with student veterans at our annual Regional Summits, Leadership Institute, Washington Week, and National Conference.

GI Bill Improvements

- Codify GI Bill protections created during the COVID-19 pandemic for use in future emergencies.
- Ensure members of the National Guard and Reserve receive the same benefits as those on active duty when performing the same work.
- Comprehensively review and update MHA to address gaps and disparities such as those related to VR&E, break pay, overseas institutions, and online instruction.
- Expand protections for members of the National Guard and Reserve who face short-term deployments and training obligations during their academic term.
- Address concerns with VR&E processes and personnel.
- Explore ways to increase the SCO-to-veteran ratio on campuses.
- Strengthen the initial GI Bill approval process for new institutions seeking to enroll GI Bill students.

Post-Traditional Student Success

- Identify and establish better support for post-traditional students' basic needs, including food, shelter, and childcare.
- Better integrate and support VA healthcare on campuses, particularly through the VA VITAL program.
- Call for additional funding for VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) locations and veteran centers.
- Expand access to reliable broadband internet.

VA Modernization

- Monitor VA's ongoing efforts to modernize IT and communications systems, including implementation of the Digital GI Bill.
- Establish a Veteran Economic Opportunity Administration with Undersecretary representation for all economic opportunity and transition programs at VA.
- Restore study abroad opportunities for GI Bill and VR&E students.
- Improve VA Work Study to address pay disparities and expand job opportunities so they better align with student goals.
- Refine GI Bill Comparison and Feedback Tools.

Strengthening Higher Education

- Pass a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.
- Ensure accurate and timely implementation of the improved 90/10 Rule that now counts VA and DoD educational benefits as federal education funds.
- Restore and protect strong Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense rules to defend students and taxpayers against fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Protect and improve the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.
- Improve oversight and accountability of trends in higher education such as institutional conversions, online program management, and lending practices.
- Empower the higher education triad to prevent predatory practices across all education sectors, prioritize student outcomes, and support innovative learning practices.

Transparency & Accountability

- Improve data collection and sharing practices across government agencies and call for more publicly available data.
- Call for improved data on how student debt impacts student veterans, service members, and their families.
- Institutionalize accountability standards through regular reports to Congress and third-party stakeholders, department-level and congressional oversight, and annual reviews of program process.

About Student Veterans of America

With a mission focused on empowering student veterans, SVA is committed to providing an educational experience that goes beyond the classroom. Through a network of more than 1,500 on-campus chapters in all 50 states and three countries overseas representing more than 754,000 student veterans, SVA aims to inspire yesterday's warriors by connecting student veterans with a community of dedicated chapter leaders. Every day these passionate leaders work to provide the necessary resources, network support, and advocacy to ensure student veterans can effectively connect, expand their skills, and ultimately achieve their greatest potential.

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