



SVA Policy Priorities 2023-2024

Introduction

In 2023 and beyond, SVA is committed to the next phase of thinking about the GI Bill and elevating the voices of student veterans and 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

- Ensure members of the National Guard and Reserve receive the same education 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 National Guard and Reserve members who face short-term deployments and training obligations during their studies.
- Address negative trickle-down impacts of institutional administrative burdens by reviewing VA education policies for inefficiencies and exploring ways to add more SCOs on campuses.
- Address concerns with VR&E processes and personnel.
- Monitor new GI Bill approval processes for 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 Vet Success on Campus (VSOC) locations and veteran centers.
- Explore ways to modernize federal student financial aid to account for the unique circumstances of transitioning service members.
- Expand access to reliable broadband internet.

VA Modernization

- Expand and improve VA VET TEC program.
- 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 VA economic opportunity and transition programs.
- Improve VA Work Study to increase pay and expand job opportunities, so they better align with student goals.
- Support ongoing improvements to the GI Bill Comparison and Feedback Tools.
- Protect and restore study abroad opportunities for GI Bill and VR&E students.

Strengthening Higher Education




- Pass a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.
- Ensure accurate and timely implementation of the improved 90/10 Rule, which now properly counts VA and DoD education benefits as federal education funds.
- Restore a strong Gainful Employment rule and protect the improved Borrower Defense rule to defend students and taxpayers against fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Protect and monitor 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 and Accountability

- Improve data collection and sharing practices across government agencies and call for more publicly available data, including timelier and more accurate counts of transitioning service members.
- 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 processes.

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 dedicated network of campus-based chapters across the country, SVA aims to inspire yesterday's warriors by connecting student veterans with a community of like-minded chapter leaders. Every day our organization works 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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