



IRAQ *and* AFGHANISTAN VETERANS *of* AMERICA

September 1st, 2009

The Honorable Christopher Carney
416 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Carney:

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is honored to offer our support for H.R. 3467, the Veterans Education Enhancement and Fairness Act. This bill will grant veterans pursuing their education through distance learning, a living allowance under the new Post 9/11 GI Bill and compensate full time National Guard soldiers and airmen for their service. Although the Post 9/11 GI Bill is the greatest investment in veterans' education since WWII, it has some rough edges that need to be ground down to better serve our newest generation of veterans, as they pursue their education.

Veterans attempting to earn a degree through distance learning should be entitled to the same benefits as veterans attending traditional brick and mortar institutions. Currently these veterans do not qualify for a living allowance. Distance learning is a wildly popular form of education for veterans and allows veterans with disabilities and family commitments an opportunity to complete an education. This unfair distinction must be rectified. Your bill will help to rectify this problem by giving veterans, taking distance-learning classes, a comparable living stipend.

National Guard members who are serving on active duty called active guard reserve (AGR) duty do not receive credit for their service under Chapter 33 and are being denied the education benefits they deserve. It shouldn't matter if you are in a firefight in Afghanistan or fighting a fire in California, if you are wearing a military uniform you should be compensated for your service. Last year there were almost 30,000 Army National Guard and 13,500 Air National Guard servicemembers serving on Title 32 who will benefit from this legislation.

We are proud to offer our assistance on this vital piece of legislation. If we can be of help please feel free to contact me at (202) 544-7692 or Patrick@java.org. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Patrick Campbell
Chief Legislative Counsel