



IRAQ *and* AFGHANISTAN VETERANS *of* AMERICA

September 1st, 2009

The Honorable Loeb sack
1221 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Loeb sack:

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is honored to offer our support for H.R. 3554, the National Guard Education Equality Act. This bill will 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.

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