The American Legion

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OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

February 6, 2017

Honorable Allen Lucas Messer
United States House of Representatives
1230 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Messer:

On behalf of the 2.2 million members of The American Legion, I write to express our support for the *Protecting Veterans From School Closures Act.* If enacted, this bill would provide immediate support to thousands of veterans whose academic pursuits were derailed by unexpected school closures.

Veterans who attended failed institutions have had their GI Bill taken away from them through no fault of their own; consequently, as a nation we must be ready to assist them in recovering their lost benefits. The men and women who sign up to defend our country truly are the best in the world; however, they receive less educational protection than their civilian counterparts using Federal Student Aid. They deserve more from us, and it is critical that we provide protections for the full benefits they have earned while serving America honorably.

The *Protecting Veterans From School Closures Act* restores GI Bill educational benefits to any veteran using their benefits at an educational institution that closes, causing them to become displaced students. This bill would apply to all veterans who were enrolled at ITT Tech at the time it closed.

Through Resolution No. 21, Education Benefit Forgiveness and Relief for Displaced Student-Veterans, passed at our Fall National Executive Committee Meeting, The American Legion supports the *Protecting Veterans From School Closures Act,* as written. Congressman Messer, The American Legion applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's veterans and their families.

Respectfully,

CHARLES E. SCHMIDT
National Commander

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