The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N.W. ★ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 ★
(202) 263-2986 ★

March 11, 2015

Honorable Ken Calvert
United States House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Calvert:

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express support for H.R. 182, which would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit the centralized reporting of veteran enrollment by certain groups, districts, and consortiums of educational institutions.

The American Legion's Resolution No. 312 *Ensuring the Quality of Servicemember and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Learning* passed at the 2014 National Convention, states that the American Legion "support[s] any legislative or administrative proposal that improves…education benefits so servicemembers, veterans, and their families can maximize [their] usage…"

In order to qualify for VA education benefits, eligible veterans must demonstrate that they are enrolled in a minimum number of credit hours. However, current regulations require that student veterans taking classes at multiple college campuses within a multi-college community college must submit additional paperwork to demonstrate that they are meeting the requirements. For veterans attending multiple campuses, this means that each of the colleges in the District or Consortium must certify that their classes meet regulations despite uniform curriculum among all the colleges in the District or Consortium. This requires additional coordination and paperwork to be completed by the school and by the VA, leading to wasted time and money and delaying the benefits to our veterans.

This legislation would direct the Secretary to recognize such multi-college community colleges as one institution, and remove a time-consuming, costly roadblock from the system, which in turn expedites the benefits to student veterans.

The American Legion supports the passage of HR 182, and applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's veterans.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL D. HELM
National Commander