

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 18, 2025

The Honorable Douglas A. Collins
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20571

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Collins and Secretary McMahon:

We write today to express our deep concerns about the budget and staffing cuts at the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Education, and the implications they will have on veteran education benefits. With nearly 16 million veterans across our nation who have selflessly served and sacrificed in defense of our country, it is imperative that these cuts do not undermine essential programs that support veterans transitioning to civilian life and building successful careers.

Education programs such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the Yellow Ribbon Program, and Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) have empowered countless veterans to pursue higher education, gain critical skills, and become integral contributors to our economy and society. Laws and regulations enforced by the Department of Education, such as the 90/10 rule and borrower defense to repayment, have also historically prevented veterans from being taken advantage of by predatory programs. Weakening or eliminating any of these programs or protections would not only harm veterans but also jeopardize our national workforce readiness and long-term economic resilience.

Given the importance of these veteran education programs, we urge your Departments to provide timely, accurate information about the impacts of the Administration's funding cuts and staffing reductions on these vital education resources for veterans. We respectfully request written responses to the following questions no later than June 30, 2025:

1. How will your Departments ensure that any changes in federal oversight or accreditation policy do not result in reduced quality or eligibility for institutions serving veterans, and will you continue to enforce laws and policies that protect GI Bill recipients from unaccredited or low-performing programs and institutions, such as the 90/10 rule and the borrower defense to repayment?
2. Can you commit that the Departments will not support any legislative or administrative efforts that reduce GI Bill benefits, including tuition coverage, housing stipends, or book allowances, which are critical for enabling veterans to complete their degrees without

incurring debt?


3. What specific steps will your agencies take to ensure that veteran-specific support services—such as on-campus counseling, tutoring, and academic advising—remain fully funded and operational, including at Minority Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and community colleges, where many student veterans enroll?
4. Will the Department of Veterans Affairs commit to expanding the capacity of the VR&E program, and what plans are in place to ensure timely and individualized services for veterans with service-connected disabilities who rely on this program to re-enter the workforce?
5. Will your Departments commit to tracking and publicly reporting the impacts of any policy or funding changes on veterans' enrollment, graduation, employment outcomes, and loan/debt levels—and use this data to guide future policy decisions affecting veteran learners?
6. Does the Department of Education have sufficient staffing levels within the Office of Federal Student Aid to ensure timely dissemination of accurate information to borrowers, including veterans, and to respond to borrower complaints? Additionally, can the Department commit to maintaining adequate staffing and resources to process critical discharge applications—such as Total and Permanent Disability Discharges, Public Service Loan Forgiveness, Borrower Defense to Repayment, and Closed School Discharges—that directly affect veteran student loan borrowers?

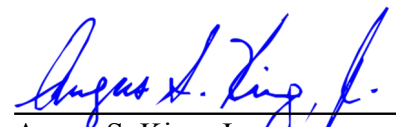
For our nation's veterans, these education programs are not only earned benefits—they are essential pathways to opportunity, stability, and self-reliance. Veterans across the country, including those in underserved and rural communities, often face systemic barriers to higher education and skills training.

As a country, we carry a moral and strategic responsibility to ensure our veterans are equipped for success after service. Safeguarding the educational benefits veterans rely upon is not only a commitment to our promises, but also an investment in our nation's future and vital for military recruitment. We respectfully request a detailed explanation of the impacts these budget and staffing cuts and planned changes to federal oversight and accreditation policy will have on veterans' access to, and success in, higher education, vocational training, and associated support services nationwide.

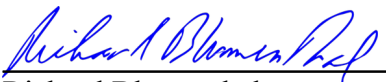
We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your prompt and comprehensive response.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



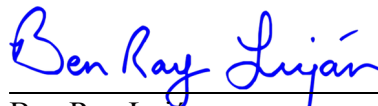
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



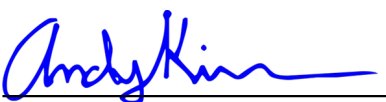
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United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
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Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
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Peter Welch
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



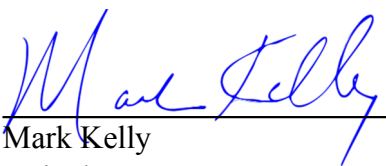
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



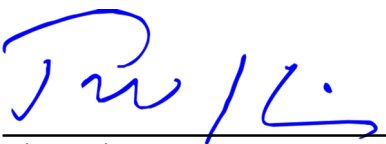
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator