

HARRY E. MITCHELL

5TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

2434 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PH: 202-225-2190
FX: 202-225-3263

7201 EAST CAMELBACK ROAD, SUITE 335
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251
PH: 480-946-2411
FX: 480-946-2446

mitchell.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

**COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

July 29, 2008

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
House Committee on Education and Labor
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller,

As the Conference Committee on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965 comes to a close, I would like to remind you of my support for the inclusion of Section 883 of H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2008, in the final report.

In April, I was proud to partner with Senator Webb and a bipartisan coalition of our Colleagues in the House to introduce H.R. 5740, the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. As you know, that bill was signed into law as part of H.R. 2642, Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, in early July.

Many important pieces of that legislation will be implemented by the time the new school year begins, and other pieces, including the new Title 33, will be fully implemented on August 1, 2009. While the new GI Bill is an important step in the reintegration process, student veterans will also benefit from a dedicated on-campus veterans program office, a one-stop-shop for student veterans. Section 883 would provide federal grants for universities to establish centers of excellence for that purpose.

Thanks to advanced field medicine and rapid transport, we are fortunate to have many more servicemembers returning home than in previous wars. However, they are returning with hidden injuries, like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury, which makes the transition into civilian life especially difficult.

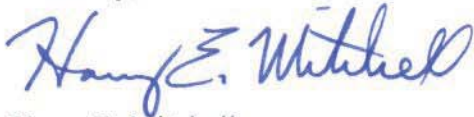
In addition to their injuries, many student veterans are under different pressures than their non-veteran peers in college. Some have families of their own, some have full-time jobs, and most are a good deal older than the other students on campus. The university setting is still an ideal way to ease their transition.

As a former educator, Member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and Chairman of its Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I have met with veterans and

servicemembers with strong convictions about making a higher education more available and affordable. They have values like loyalty, hard work, and pride, which we want in our workforce. A college degree provides veterans and servicemembers with access to numerous opportunities in which they can excel.

Again, thank you for your commitment to students and veterans across the country. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harry E. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "H".

Harry E. Mitchell
Member of Congress