



Stand Up for Veterans' Education! Co-Sponsor H.R. 950!

Dear Colleague:

Our nations' brave men and women have fought together hand in hand in the war against terror, many of them experiencing multiple and extended deployments in support of missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Yet when they return home, not all are provided equal benefits.

H.R. 950 provides a housing allowance for Post-9/11 veterans choosing to participate in distance learning courses. This legislation eliminates the current requirement that veterans need to be enrolled in at least one course at an on-site facility.

You may recall that the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill was signed into law on June 30, 2008 to expand on current education benefits to cover the full cost of tuition to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars based on the cost of the most expensive four year public university in the state. Under the new law, veterans may receive full tuition & fees payment, housing allowance and a book stipend.

Current law requires that the housing allowance is only payable to veterans who meet the following qualifications: veterans who are not on active duty, who are attending school at least half-time, and who are enrolled in at least one course at an on-site facility. Unfortunately, this leaves out thousands of veterans from which can negatively affect their pursuit for an education after their military service to our country.

There should not be a distinction between those who attend a brick and mortar classroom versus those who study at home and take their tests on a computer. Supporters of this bill are standing up for disabled veterans, veteran families, rural veterans, and single-parent households who are getting an education and working to better their life.

Join me in support of ***H.R. 950***, and help restore equity by choosing to provide all our veterans with equal housing benefits while they participate in a distance learning education program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Filner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

BOB FILNER
Chairman