



STUDENT VETERANS *of* AMERICA

SVA Policy Priorities

September 2018



SVA empowers veterans to be informed consumers of higher education and leverage GI Bill benefits for education success and career opportunities.

SVA invests in high-impact programs that sustain chapters and build student veteran leaders, assisting veterans achieve academic goals. In addition to SVA's government affairs advocacy, we support student veterans through:

- Chapter Leader Academies
- Leadership Institutes
- Scholarships
- Chapter Support and Grants

The SVA Department of Government Affairs represents student veterans in the nation's capital and across the country, serving as subject matter experts on higher education policy for non-traditional students. We advocate on behalf of student veterans through informing policymakers in the executive and legislative branches on data, research, and direct experiences of veterans in college. Our team readily provides the perspective of this population of impressive students.



Forever GI Bill Updates


- 28 of the 31 provisions implemented
- August 1 BAH updates have not happened
 - Payments continue to go out, but
 - New students: Are receiving the 2017 VA rate instead of DoD 2018 rate, which means students are getting overpaid
 - Existing students: Are receiving the 2017 VA rate without the new COLA increase, likely an underpayment for some
 - VA will not issue debts for overpayments and will send out additional payments in cases of underpayment
 - Next testing is expected mid-October

Remaining provisions include STEM scholarship and VET TEC



SVA Policy Priorities

- Data
 - Coordinate data-sharing across government agencies and make data publicly available
- Economic Opportunity at VA
 - Establish the Veteran Economic Opportunity Administration with Undersecretary representation for all economic opportunity and transition programs at VA
- HEA Reauthorization
 - Count VA and DoD educational benefits as federal funds
 - Rename “Master Promissory Note” to “Student Loan Contract”
 - Preserve Gainful Employment and Borrowers Defense
- Innovation
 - Study emerging education innovations to better understand the effectiveness and efficacy of such models



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