



October 12, 2017

The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
412 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Phil Roe  
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
335 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs  
412 Russel Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Walz  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veteran Affairs  
336 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Isakson, Chairman Roe, Ranking Member Tester, and Ranking Member Walz,

On behalf the 22,000 members of the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), we are writing to inform you of our strong opposition to any legislative provision that would cut, cap, or otherwise negatively impact the ability of our members to use their hard-earned Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to pursue and cover the full cost of flight training at public institutions of higher learning.

The programs that veterans are currently enrolled in at public universities are among some of the highest quality programs of education in ANY field and adequately prepare student veterans for very lucrative careers in the aviation industry.

The House draft bill provision to cap GI Bill benefits for flight training renders these programs unaffordable for all but for a few independently wealthy student veterans with a high net worth or an excellent credit rating. Despite the proposed cap, the absolute costs for flight training will remain unchanged. What will change, however, is the veterans' ability to afford this type of high-quality education and training.

AUSN understands that the sponsors of the House draft bill provision crafted that proposal with an eye to eliminating the few unusually high tuition bills that are alleged to have occurred over the past several years. However, we also understand that more information has come to light since the House considered this issue over a year.

Furthermore, AUSN has received a fair amount of feedback from members about this specific issue. Those members who have spoken up, have been vocal and adamant that their ability to use their GI Bill benefits to cover the full cost of a high-quality professional aviation training program must be preserved. Therefore, in a time when less than 1% of our citizens serve in war zones and while we are still at war, AUSN strongly opposes either a cut to or a cap on flight training benefits for veterans.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the Military and Veteran community by working to improve the lives and careers of those who served our great nation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 703-548-5800 or at [michael.little@ausn.org](mailto:michael.little@ausn.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Little". To the right of the signature, there is a small, circular stamp containing the text "AUSN" and "USNR".

Michael J. Little  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
Association of the United States Navy