



United States Army
Warrant Officers Association

The Quiet Professionals®

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November 28, 2017

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
Chairman
Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs
412 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Phil Roe
Chairman
House Committee on Veterans Affairs
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jon Tester
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs
412 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Walz
Ranking Member
House Committee on Veterans Affairs
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) is the only military service organization thoroughly devoted to the welfare of Army Warrant Officers – serving, former and retired – and their families. The USAWOA would like to express its opposition to provisions in H.R. 4149 that would negatively impact the ability of Veterans to utilize the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits they have earned, to cover the full cost of flight training, at public institutions of higher learning.

These public university programs provide quality educational instruction necessary to set Veterans up for solid careers in the aviation industry, at a time when there is legitimate national concern about current and pending shortages of pilots and other aviation professionals, in both the private sector and the uniformed services.

In the past, USAWOA shared the concerns expressed by many, that some frankly predatory institutions had “gamed the system,” charging exorbitantly high tuition bills for students in the aviation field (and others). However, we believe the solution lies in solid administrative management of a fair program that takes into account the real, equitable costs associated with such programs. Unfortunately, we believe that the GI Bill benefit cap in H.R. 4149 will serve only to make these programs unaffordable for most students.

We are truly grateful for the tremendous, collective body of work your committees have accomplished this year – on a bipartisan, bicameral basis – in support of this nation’s wonderful Veterans. And thank you in advance for your consideration of our input on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me for clarification of USAWOA’s position on this, or any other issue in the future.

Sincerely,

Jack Du Teil
Executive Director