



Policy Priorities

Student Veterans of America (SVA) takes great pride and responsibility for leading the charge for veterans everywhere in higher education. It is the duty of SVA's Department of Government Affairs to identify and support policy solutions to issues that face the men and women who have served our country. These are our top priorities during the 115th Congress of the United States.

Protecting the GI Bill

The GI Bill is currently safe from cuts but proving its value to the American economy is at the forefront of many of our policy and research efforts. SVA calls on Members of Congress and policymakers to understand the value of creating targeted investments in veterans through a data-driven approach.

STEM Education

SVA is building partnerships and developing solutions to engage student veterans, educators and organizations; and to inspire veterans to pursue STEM careers.

Student Debt

A large number of service members list student loan debt as an issue of priority, and the total amount of student debt in the United States stands at \$1.2 trillion. SVA would like to see debt management incorporated into TAP training, as well as increased regulation of any schools encouraging necessary loans.

Veteran Representation

Veterans are represented in the workforce on Capitol Hill and within universities at less than 3%. We support the partnership to increase veteran hiring on Capitol Hill, and encourage academia to meet the 7% target established by the Vietnam Veterans Employment Readjustment Assistance Act.

Credits & Credentials

Many schools do not properly recognize the training and experience of many service members. This lengthens the time it takes to graduate and start a career. SVA asks states and individual schools to develop military articulation agreements (MAL) that award course credit or course waivers to service members for their training and experience.

Access & Affordability

Between ineffective Transition Assistance Program (TAP) seminars, aggressive marketing by some schools, and lack of loan servicer SCRA compliance, veterans face a challenging landscape. SVA hopes to encourage strict enforcement of the law and the development of transition guides.

Loan Servicer Compliance

SVA is seeking for the rules and regulations around SCRA to be clarified so that it will be easier to expose servicers who willingly break compliance. SVA encourages key stakeholders at CFPB, DoD, VA, and DOJ to cooperate in the investigation and correction of improper practices that affect the student loans of thousands of service members and veterans.

Priority Enrollment

Student veterans face a limited timeframe for benefits and cannot afford to wait for higher-level courses without taking out additional loans. SVA encourages both states and congress to examine the importance of priority enrollment and encourage schools to implement the policy.

For questions or further information about government relations at Student Veterans of America, contact Will Hubbard at will.hubbard@studentveterans.org