

TALKING POINTS



BOOK STIPEND

Update to G.I. Bill Annual Book and Educational Supply Stipend.

- The Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, unchanged at \$1,000 since 2009, no longer covers rising textbook and material costs.
- SVA’s Book Stipend Survey found that nearly 45% of respondents spent well over the \$1,000 stipend allowance annually, with over half of those being undergraduate students.
- Many student veterans, especially in STEM and JD programs, exceed their stipend in one semester due to costly materials and must take on additional debt to cover the cost of supplies, even while using the G.I. Bill.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

- Cosponsor, pass, and introduce a Senate companion bill to the ***H.R. 1965, Veteran Education Assistance Adjustment Act***, which would adjust the stipend to \$1,400 annually and tie into the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to account for annual inflation.
- Create STEM and JD specific stipend.

VA WORK STUDY REFORM

The Veteran Affairs Work Study Program (VAWS) is outdated and underutilized, forcing many veterans into jobs that do not align with their career aspirations to meet financial needs.

- The VAWS Program should provide career-relevant opportunities instead of limiting veterans to administrative tasks.
- Veterans pursue careers in diverse fields like cybersecurity, healthcare, and public service—the VAWS should support these goals.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

- Cosponsor, pass, and introduce a Senate companion bill to the ***H.R. 5965, Student Veteran Work Study Modernization Act*** and ***H.R. 6011, VA Work-Study Improvement Act***, which would:
 - Expand work-study eligibility to part-time student veterans.
 - Pay parity, allow electronic timekeeping, and expand the types of activities and positions available to align with veterans’ academic and career goals.

NOTES:
