

November 22, 2016

Senator John McCain Chairman Senate Committee on Armed Services

Senator Jack Reed Ranking Member Senate Committee on Armed Services

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the service members and veterans we serve in utilizing their educational beenfits, Veterans Education Success writes to express our continuing support for the work of the Defense Department in overseeing voluntary educational, including Tuition Assistance (TA) and related programs.

Tuition Assistance is important to service members and to the professional development needs of the Armed Services. It also serves the Armed Services' career retention needs. We joined with other military and veterans' organizations in strongly supporting the creation of a helpful Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with schools by DOD. The MOU helps to ensure that TA and other voluntary educational programs meet the Services' objectives and provide fair and impartial access to bases and posts. The common-sense policies and procedures in the MOU ensure participating colleges and universities are responsive to the needs of the Armed Services, military students, and their families.

Veterans Education Success looks forward to working with the Committee on Armed Services to ensure the continuation of robust, efficient, and effective DOD Voluntary Educational Programs.

I would respectfully request that a copy of this letter be included in the official record of the hearing on Voluntary Educational Programs scheduled for November 29, 2016.

Sincerely,

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Walter Ochinko Policy Director Veterans Education Success