

30 March 2015

The Honorable Lois Frankel
House of Representatives
1037 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Frankel:

The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) supports the bill you sponsored, titled the *Veteran Education Empowerment Act*. This bill would support veterans by providing veteran student centers at educational institutions.

Veterans bring a special dynamic to universities and colleges based on their background and your grant program would establish a community of support they could access while they pursue education. This is significant because since 9/11, over 900,000 Reserve Component members have been activated to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn and other contingencies, thereby earning the Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefit.

With consideration to paragraph 3(B)(vi), we recommend changing the language to encourage institutions to assist, rather than provide mental health counseling since it would be very difficult to monitor the counseling to ensure each school meets federal standards.

“(vi) The institution or consortium commits to assisting veterans in finding mental health counseling for its veteran students and their spouses.”

ROA has a membership of over 50,000, which represents all the uniformed services of the United States who would be favorably affected by your bill. Thank you for your efforts on this issue, and past support to the military. Please have your staff call Susan Lukas, ROA's legislative director, at 202-646-7713 or e-mail at slukas@roa.org with any question or issue you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey E. Phillips
Executive Director