



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

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Chartered by the Congress of the United States

February 27, 2017

The Honorable Luke Messer
United States House of Representatives
1230 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Messer:

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) supports your legislation “Reducing Barriers for Veterans Education Act” (H.R. 1206) and anticipates its passage during the 115th Congress. PVA is a Congressionally-chartered veterans’ service organization representing veterans with spinal cord injury and/or dysfunction. We support legislation that assists veterans as they continue their effort to reenter the civilian world. PVA was an original supporter of the Post 9/11 GI Bill and advocated for the most comprehensive educational assistance to help new veterans prepare for future employment.

Unfortunately the Post 9/11 GI Bill did not include the additional expense of an application fee among the necessary cost of pursuing a college education or technical/vocational training. This fee can be several hundred dollars in some situations. The additional fee could prevent a veteran from starting their education as planned, or place the veteran further in debt if funds are available as a loan. Your legislation will help veterans with this barrier and is a necessary addition to an otherwise unique and comprehensive educational benefit.

We appreciate your commitment to this issue. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Carl Blake

Associate Executive Director
Government Relations
Paralyzed Veterans of America