



# IRAQ *and* AFGHANISTAN VETERANS *of* AMERICA

December 14, 2010

Honorable Bob Filner  
335 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Steve Buyer  
333 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Filner and Ranking Member Buyer:

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) offers our strong support for S.3447, commonly referred to as the New GI Bill 2.0. Our work on the New GI Bill is not done. The New GI Bill is a historic commitment to this generation of veterans that has enabled over 300,000 student veterans to attend school. However, tens of thousands of young veterans are unable to take advantage of these new GI Bill benefits because confusing regulations and holes in the original legislation. To ensure every veteran has access to a first class future, IAVA recommends swift passage of S.3447.

New GI Bill 2.0 finishes the Post 9/11 GI Bill and includes:

- **Vocational Training:** Invaluable job training for students studying at vocational schools.
- **Title 32 AGR:** Grant National Guardsmen responding to national disasters full GI Bill credit.
- **Distance Learners:** Provide living allowances for veterans in distance learning programs.
- **Tuition/Fees:** Expand and simplify the Yellow Ribbon Program.
- **Active Duty:** Include a book stipend for active duty students.

New GI Bill 2.0 will help student veterans like Charles Conrad who returned home to a tough economy and enrolled in a vocational school to help prepare him for a meaningful career only to find out that his vocational school was not covered by the new GI Bill and SPC Weaver a Purple Heart recipient whose vertigo is so bad he can't sit in a classroom for an entire period and therefore does not qualify for a living allowance because he has to take classes online. This legislation will also help the tens of thousands of National Guard troops who were activated to clean up the oil spill in the Gulf and have not received credit toward the GI Bill for their service.

We are proud to offer our assistance on this vital piece of legislation. If we can be of help please feel free to contact Tim Embree at [tim@iava.org](mailto:tim@iava.org) or call 202-544-7962.

Sincerely,

Paul Rieckhoff  
Executive Director  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America