

On-Campus Aid for Veterans (Washington Post)

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The April 29 front-page story "Some War Veterans Find GI Bill Falls Short" addressed the challenges our veterans face upon their return from combat, including choices about their future.

As our brave men and women in the military consider pursuing or continuing their college educations, our government must commit to easing this transition so veterans may take better advantage of educational benefits and thrive in a college environment.

Nearly 440,000 service members are expected to seek GI benefits this year. Little support exists to help these soldiers-turned-scholars navigate the tricky world of student financial aid or find the health care or emotional support they deserve. For this reason, we have introduced the Securing Success for Veterans on Campus Act in the House. This legislation would make it possible for colleges and universities to set up centers designed to offer assistance to student veterans.

A bill by Sen. James Webb (D-Va.) to boost GI benefits is a much-needed start, but it is not enough. We need to provide on-campus services beyond increased financial support so that our veterans receive the resources to adjust to college life.

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