



December 14, 2010

The Honorable Bob Filner, Chairman
House Veterans' Affairs' Committee
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Filner:

On behalf of the 1.2 million members of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), I am writing to ask you to support passage of S. 3447, the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, which was approved by the Senate on December 13, 2010. This bill contains a provision of great importance to DAV that would provide service-connected veterans with employment challenges who are enrolled in VA's vocational rehabilitation program a subsistence payment equal to that which non-disabled veterans receive under the new Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Section 205 of S. 3447 would enable veterans with service-connected disabilities who participate in the vocational rehabilitation program (Chapter 31) the ability to elect to receive an alternative subsistence allowance paid at the rate provided to recipients of the new Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), which is generally higher than the Chapter 31 allowance. In accordance with DAV Resolution No. 099, this legislation would eliminate a disparity in current law which could force service-connected veterans with employment deficits to choose to continue in a program less financially supportive to them and their families than their non-disabled counterparts, or to opt out of vocational rehabilitation altogether for the more financially beneficial Post-9/11 GI Bill. Neither of these choices is ideal.

In order to provide equity for service-connected disabled veterans enrolled in VA's vocational rehabilitation program, I urge you to support final passage of this legislation before the 111th Congress adjourns.

Sincerely,


JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE
National Legislative Director

JAV:lmb

c: Speaker of the House Pelosi
House Majority Leader Hoyer
House Minority Leader Boehner
House Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Buyer
Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Akaka
Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Burr

