



**VADM Norbert R. Ryan, Jr. USN (Ret)**  
*President*

December 14, 2010

The Honorable Bob Filner  
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the 370,000 members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), I am writing to urge your support for final passage of S.3447, the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, as passed by the Senate on 13 December.

S. 3447 takes the best GI Bill since World War II to a new level of excellence, transparency and efficiency for veterans, college administrators and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill simplifies the complex and confusing payment system, reduces costs in key areas, eliminates glaring inequities, and enhances the opportunity for our veterans to successfully reintegrate in society after serving their nation.

We are particularly pleased that top MOAA priorities in S.3447 would:

- Permit full-time National Guard members on Title 32 orders to earn the benefit for their service;
- Open vocational, apprenticeship, OJT and other job training – the Post-9/11 GI Bill is the only GI Bill program since WWII that excludes job training;
- Simplify the payment system for public college attendance and set a national baseline for private college enrollment;
- Permit USPHS and NOAA Corps service women and men to transfer their benefits to family members, if requested by their Department's respective Secretaries with the approval of the Secretary of Defense;
- Authorize a book stipend (up to \$1000 annually) for active duty participants;
- Establish a housing allowance for veterans enrolled in full-time online study
- Raise the cost-of-living stipend for wounded warriors eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits

The CBO has reported that the bill will save \$734 million over 10 years. More importantly, S.3447 will help our veterans gain the skills and training they need to compete in a very difficult economic climate. This legislation will reduce the need for future costly intervention programs for under- and unemployed veterans, making it a wise investment for our country.

On behalf of our entire membership, I would respectfully recommend your personal support for final passage this week of S.3447

Thank you for your leadership and support for our nation's uniformed servicemembers, their families and our veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norbert R. Ryan, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Copy furnished: The Honorable Steve Buyer, Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans Affairs