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SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 31, 2012

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki  
Secretary  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your dedicated service to our nation's veterans.

This summer, 17 public universities in Ohio will be transitioning from the quarter to the semester system. Such a shift will make it easier for students to transfer within the University System of Ohio.

While college and universities are proactively working to ensure a smooth transition for all students and faculty, I have heard from several school administrators about how this change may impact the delivery of GI Bill benefits to their students. Specifically, this transition will cause the summer quarter to end in the same month as the fall semester begins. As a result, the abbreviated gap between terms could strain school resources that serve veterans on campus. Further, it has come to my attention that there are concerns about the Department's ability to adjust to these changes in a timely manner and provide schools the information they need so that students can continue to receive their GI Bill benefits.

I ask that you make every effort to coordinate with these colleges and universities as they seek to improve coordination among Ohio's public four- and two-year colleges and universities. It is imperative that the Department ensures consistent support to Ohio's veterans and the institutions that serve them throughout this transition.

Please keep my staff informed regarding your efforts to ensure that our nation's veterans can continue to receive these important benefits. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other matters of importance to our nation's veterans.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator