



## TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS

3033 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 630 ✪ Arlington, VA 22201

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July 6, 2017

Jared Lyon, President & CEO  
Student Veterans of America  
1012 14th Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Lyon:

As the national organization that has provided comfort and care to the families of America's fallen military heroes since 1994, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) would like to express our support for your recent work with the GI Bill modernization, also referred to as the Forever GI Bill. This proposal seeks to fix many of the current issues within the Post-9/11 GI Bill while also guaranteeing all student veterans have access to the benefits they earned.

TAPS has been most pleased to work with you on issues affecting survivor education benefits including:

- expanding eligibility for Fry Scholarship recipients to the Yellow Ribbon program,
- transferring of unused Post 9/11 education assistance benefits to dependents upon death of the originally designated dependents or after the death of the veteran,
- extending the duration of assistance and increasing the amount payable for dependents in receipt of the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program.

We agree that all veterans have earned educational assistance through their cost of service, yet now, too many are being left behind. The Forever GI Bill alleviates these problems through many measures, including addressing issues for National Guard and Reserve Members, Purple Heart recipients, survivors and families of the fallen, and students who experienced sudden school closures including those at Corinthian Colleges and ITT Technical Institutes.

TAPS joins with you in supporting the removal of the 15-year time limit on usage of education benefits. This will make this truly a lifetime benefit.

We salute your efforts and collaboration with other military and veteran and family organizations in addressing these essential issues. These issues are absolutely urgent, and we will continue to work closely with you to ensure that our veterans, their families and their survivors receive these important benefits.

Respectfully,

Bonnie Carroll  
Founder and President

*Caring for the Families of America's Fallen Heroes Since 1994*