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## U.S. House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

364 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

[HTTP://VETERANS.HOUSE.GOV](http://veterans.house.gov)

May 8, 2026

Dr. Ellen M. Granberg Ph.D.  
 President  
 The George Washington University  
 1918 F Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20052

Dear President Granberg:

I write to you today to express my serious concerns about how the George Washington University is treating student veterans who are enrolled in its accelerated Master of Business Administration (MBA) program using their earned V.A. education benefits. The Subcommittee has received credible allegations that veterans enrolled in this program may be intentionally not receiving their full Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) from VA based on information provided by your university, particularly those student veterans enrolled in the Yellow Ribbon Program. At the same time that student veterans are not receiving their MHA at the full-time rate, your school is allegedly collecting tuition and fee payments as if the full-time rate is applied. This alleged discrepancy directly impacts those who have served our nation's ability to pay their housing expenses, including rent or a mortgage, while they pursue higher education at your university.

Section 3317 of title 38, U.S.C. authorizes the Yellow Ribbon Program which permits participating higher education institutions to voluntarily match VA contributions to cover student veterans' tuition and fee costs above the private and non-profit school cap in statute. These allegations raise concerns about whether student veterans are receiving the full benefits to which they are entitled under federal law. As the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, and a veteran myself, I take these allegations seriously.

The Subcommittee reached out to your Government and Community Relations team on April 8, 2026, after learning that when enrolled student veterans expressed concerns to campus leaders regarding incorrect payments, they were dismissed. The plans that representatives of the George Washington University outlined for the Subcommittee on April 23, 2026, to address these payment concerns were insufficient at best. The plans lacked accountability and plans for communication with current and previous student veterans that were enrolled in the program. The solutions that were provided were also generic and did not properly outline specific oversight metrics the university will implement to ensure these problems will not happen in the future.

The Subcommittee has since received additional information indicating that student veterans enrolled in the accelerated MBA program were initially led to believe that their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits would fully cover the cost of the program. However, some participants in the Yellow Ribbon Program are now reportedly being informed—days before the start of summer classes—that they must pay between \$14,000 and \$20,000 out-of-pocket or withdraw from the program because the Yellow Ribbon Program funds have been exhausted. This late-stage change raises serious concerns regarding transparency, and the lack of an acknowledgment of financial impact this decision will have on student veterans.

In public advertising on your website, your university promotes being veteran-centric and claims there is not a cap for student veterans who choose to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. However, this appears to not be the case. Whether it is the result of negligence on your university's part, including misleading advertising towards current and future student veterans, the accusations that the Subcommittee has been made aware of are deeply concerning. As a result of these allegations of the George Washington University's failure to properly pay, certify, and advertise to student veterans, I am requesting that your staff provide to the Committee, **no later than May 13, 2026**, a response to these allegations. I also request that you provide a detailed plan on how you will resolve and fix these issues to ensure that past and present student veterans enrolled in this and other programs are properly compensated. I also ask that you address George Washington University's advertising towards student veterans to ensure accuracy and transparency.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to have your staff contact the subcommittee staff with any questions. Should George Washington University fail to properly respond to this request by the above date, I will discuss with the Chairman additional actions, up to and possibly including the issuance of a subpoena. Our student veterans deserve the best and I will do whatever I can to ensure those who take advantage of them are held accountable.

Sincerely,



**DERRICK VAN ORDEN**  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

Cc: The Honorable Chris Pappas, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Subcommittee