



INAVPA

# **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS' PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS**

*Proudly Serving Veterans Since 1975*

## **Veterans' Education Programs Issues, Legislative, & Education Agenda 2021-2022**



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[www.navpa.org](http://www.navpa.org)





# ABOUT US

## *Pre COVID-19*

The National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA) is an organization of institutions and individuals who are involved or interested in the operation of veterans' affairs programs and/or the delivery of services to veterans as Veterans' Education Program Administrators across the country.

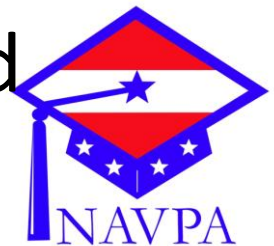


# ABOUT US

## *Pre COVID-19*



NAVPA has served as the voice of advocacy for veterans in higher education since its founding in 1975. Our research, training, and policy initiatives have developed programs and support services to ensure veterans achieve their academic and professional goals.



# MEMBERSHIP

NAVPA's membership includes over 400 Institutions of Higher Learning across the nation that represent over 530,000 student veterans.

Membership in NAVPA shall be extended in three levels of participation:

- Institutional Membership
- Auxiliary Membership
- Associate Membership



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## TOP FOUR PRIORITY ISSUES

### PRIORITY ISSUE #1

#### 85-15 VA CHANGES

**Issue:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implemented new definitions and methods of calculating the 85-15 Rule, which went into effect October 1, 2021, and has caused harmful outcomes for student veterans. Overall, the VA's new definitions and methods have limited student veterans' choices of academic options. Many of the eliminated programs have career, STEM, and vocational value to student veterans.



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## TOP FOUR PRIORITY ISSUES

### Harmful Outcomes of this 85/15 Policy Changes for Student Veterans:

- Inaccurate percentages reported for Supported Students
- Student veterans unable to use their GI Bill® at their school of choice for the program of study
- Suspended programs with no student veterans enrolled
- Members are reporting STEM programs are being suspended preventing future student veterans from enrolling
- Concerns for our National Guard and Reserve students while they are activated and out of school
- Late announcement from the VA



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## TOP FOUR PRIORITY ISSUES

### Recommendation:

We ask this language to be removed since this is not in the CFR and includes cash paying students utilizing a payment plan with a balance past 30-days. NAVPA asks for the help of Congressional leadership to interpret the true intent and spirit of the law as written to protect the student veteran and their GI Bill<sup>®</sup> to attend the approved school and program of their choice.





# ISSUES/CONCERNS

## UPDATE

### NAVPA's Response 2020 - 2021:

- Contacted VBA Director & Leadership
- Spearheaded a coalition of Higher Ed organizations that were concerned about 85/15 new directives
- Led coalition and wrote letter to VBA Director (SCO Handbook update)
- Met with Deputy Director and VA legal (December, February, April, and May)
- Included guests: ACE, NACUBO, AACRAO



# ISSUES/CONCERNS

## UPDATE ~ SCO Office Hours Sept. 2021

### NAVPA's Response:

- In talks with other organizations
- Legislative Committee reviewing new requirements
- Listening to NAVPA Member concerns
- Met with VA leadership to voice concerns
- Met with HVAC & SVAC to share concerns
- Collecting data from schools



# ISSUES/CONCERNS

## UPDATE ~

- New Bill introduction from HVAC & SVAC ~ H.R. 8198 & S.4458 Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## TOP FOUR PRIORITY ISSUES

### PRIORITY ISSUE #2

#### SECTION 1019 IMPLEMENTATION

**Issue:** The VA's interpreting the new law as applying to all debts to institutions regardless of how or when the debts were created



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## TOP FOUR PRIORITY ISSUES

### **Recommendation:**

NAVPA recommends VA follow the law as written and administer valid student debt to the student. VA has the authority to work with these students with payment plans or forgive the debt altogether based on extenuating circumstances.



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## TOP FOUR PRIORITY ISSUES

### PRIORITY ISSUE #3

#### ARMY IGNITED

**Issue:** After 12-months of implementation of Army IgnitED, the new system is still dysfunctional and inoperable, preventing soldiers from attending school and using their TA benefit.



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

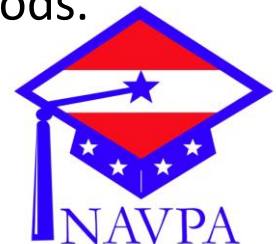
## TOP FOUR PRIORITY ISSUES

### **Recommendation:**

NAVPA is concerned these issues have negatively impacted our student soldiers. NAVPA recommends a call to action. US Army needs to immediately issue a pause on implementation and address the following with institutions:

- Ask for feedback
- Increase transparency
- Add human resources to address processing issues

NAVPA supports an open dialogue roundtable with Army to new procedures being implemented that affects student soldiers. These roundtable discussions will help alleviate any known and unknown issues prior to nationwide execution with the common goal of sustainable workable solutions during transitional periods.



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## TOP FOUR PRIORITY ISSUES

### PRIORITY ISSUE #4

#### NEW THIRD-PARTY COMPLIANCE SURVEYS

**Issue:** The new third-party contractor, Saint George Consulting, are contacting schools to conduct an in-person Compliance Survey regardless of when the institution last completed their review.





# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## TOP FOUR PRIORITY ISSUES

### **Recommendation:**

While NAVPA understand the necessity of a Compliance Survey, NAVPA asks that the VA be good stewards of taxpayer monies to ensure schools are not redundantly completing a Compliance Survey unnecessarily.



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## Concerns

### Concerns

### ELR'S

#### **Issue:** Lack of Support

There have been recent job postings by the VA for ELRs across the nation. It is our understanding that the VA is experiencing a major employee shortage. This has been realized in the SCO community from lack of communication from ELRs, missing WEAMS report updates and lack of catalog approvals.



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## Concerns

### Concerns

With the insurmountable number of changes from the VA and implementations of new legislation, it is imperative that responses and questions from institutions are answered and timely. Oftentimes, schools go months without a response or never receive an answer. NAVPA members are reporting they are still waiting for an updated WEAMS report from their ELR from 2020 & 2021.



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## Concerns

### Concerns

NAVPA recommends VA review the current organizational structure and internal policy and procedures to help retain current, productive, and efficient VA employees. A stabilized and trained VA workforce will ensure communication and support functions are in place to better serve our student veteran population and support the institutions administering the GI Bill®.



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## Concerns

### Concerns

- Remote Act:
  - Rounding Out
  - Section 1010 Waivers
- I&R
  - 1010
  - 1018
  - 1019
- Quality of Training/ Lack of Support



# ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## Concerns

### Update

- Remote Act:
  - Rounding Out – existing policy ++
  - Section 1010 Waivers – upcoming meeting
- Continued meetings with the 4-Corners & others



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS' PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

## ON THE HILL



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS' PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

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**#StongerTogether2022**

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