



SVA POLICY PRIORITIES 2024

In 2024 and beyond, Student Veterans of America (SVA) is committed to the next phase of thinking about the GI Bill and elevating the voices of student veterans and their everyday needs. Our policy priorities stem from direct interactions with student veterans at our annual Regional Summits, Leadership Institute, Washington Week, and National Conference.

VA MODERNIZATION

- Monitor VA's ongoing efforts to modernize IT and communications systems, closely tracking the rollout of initiatives like the Digital GI Bill with a sharp focus on how these upgrades affect GI Bill users navigating their studies.
- Improve VA Work Study to increase pay and expand job opportunities, so they better align with student goals to include congressional office sites.
- Protect and restore study abroad opportunities for GI Bill and Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) students.
- Prioritize the successful transition of servicemembers into civilian life through VA-led programs and services, to include the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), that close the economic opportunity gaps caused by military service with elevated structural focus from Veteran Affairs (VA) administration.
- Expand and improve VA VET TEC program.

GI BILL IMPROVEMENTS

- Comprehensively review and update MHA to address gaps and disparities, such as those related to VR&E, break pay, overseas institutions, and online instruction.
- Address concerns with VR&E processes and personnel to ensure accountability and consistency for eligible veterans.
- Ensure members of the National Guard and Reserve receive the same education benefits as those on active duty when performing the same work.
- Expand protections for National Guard and Reserve members who face short-term deployments and training obligations during their studies.
- Address negative trickle-down impacts of institutional administrative burdens by reviewing VA education policies for inefficiencies and exploring ways to add more School Certifying Officials (SCO) on campuses.
- Monitor new GI Bill approval processes for institutions seeking to enroll GI Bill students.

POST-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS

- Identify and establish better support for post-traditional students' basic needs, including food, shelter, and childcare.
- Better integrate and support VA healthcare on campuses, particularly through the VA Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) program.
- Call for additional funding for VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) locations and veteran centers.
- Explore ways to modernize federal student financial aid to account for the unique circumstances of transitioning service members.
- Expand access to reliable broadband internet.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Improve data collection and sharing practices across government agencies and call for more publicly available data, including timelier and more accurate counts of transitioning servicemembers.
- Call for improved data on how student debt impacts student veterans, service members, and their families.
- Shed light on the differing socioeconomic circumstance and the economic outlook disparity between veterans and non-veterans holding bachelor's degrees, which encompasses multiple dimensions.
- Institutionalize accountability standards through regular reports to Congress and third-party stakeholders, department-level and congressional oversight, and annual reviews of program processes.
- Support ongoing improvements to the DOD Tuition Assistance (TA) DECIDE, and the GI Bill Comparison and Feedback Tools.
- Provide a pathway to permanent status for Afghans who have entered the United States since August 2021.

STRENGTHENING HIGHER EDUCATION

- Pass a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.
- Empower the higher education triad to prevent predatory practices across all education sectors.
- Ensure accurate and timely implementation of the improved 90/10 Rule, which now properly counts VA and DoD education benefits as federal education funds.
- Restore a strong Gainful Employment rule and protect the improved Borrower Defense rule to defend students and taxpayers against fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Protect and monitor the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.
- Improve oversight and accountability of trends in higher education, such as institutional conversions, online program management, and lending practices.

CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE

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STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA

INSPIRING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



ANNUAL SVA PROGRAMS

REGIONAL SUMMITS

JULY - AUGUST, 2024

Provide the tools, techniques, and tactics needed for student veterans to manage a successful and sustainable student organization.

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

OCTOBER 17-20, 2024

This student leadership experience brings together top chapter leaders through an immersive experience designed to equip tomorrow's leaders to serve and create a lasting community of impact.

NATCON

JANUARY 2-4, 2025

Our annual NatCon brings together student veterans from across the country, inspiring speakers, leading employers, higher education professionals, nonprofits, government agencies, and more!

