



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 19, 2018

Washington, D.C. - Today, The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is calling on The Department of Education to immediately return the National comparison data to the College Scorecard Website. Last week The Department of Education unilaterally and without seeking public comment removed data that is integral to showing the performance of a school. Without this data students will not be able to make informed decisions about their educational opportunities.

Not only did this deliberate obfuscation impact the College scorecard website it also impacted other agencies' tools as well. The GI comparison tool which specifically designed to serve American Service Members and Veterans relies on the data that the Department of Education has suddenly made unavailable. The CFPB the VA and the DOD were not consulted on the changes or asked how the changes might impact them. Due to the changes the Department of Education has made Veterans attempting to use the GI Bill comparison tool no longer have accurate information to compare schools against. Daniel Elkins, Legislative Director of EANGUS, said, "If we want Student Veterans to make smart choices with their GI Bill Benefits with this change The Department of Education is standing against us and not with us."

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States represents the interests of over 450,000 members of the National Guard. EANGUS urges Congress and fellow Veteran Service Organizations to unite to protect the tradition of Citizen Soldiers in the United States by ensuring that the best employment opportunities possible are available for our Heroes

The letter being sent to Chairman Alexander, Chairwoman Foxx, Ranking Member Murray and Ranking Member Scott, is attached below.

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Dear Chairman Alexander, Chairwoman Foxx, Ranking Member Murray and Ranking Member Scott,

We, the undersigned advocates in veterans' education, are writing in response to recent actions taken by the Department of Education against the interests of Student Veterans.

On Friday, September 28, the Department of Education (ED) independently disabled key data collection and removed national medians from the College Scorecard. Not only did ED do this without inviting public comment, or consulting Veterans' Affairs (VA), the Department of Defense (DOD), or the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)—there is also no evidence that ED attempted any due diligence to test how their sudden changes to the College Scorecard would affect these agencies and Student Veterans nationwide.

Without national medians, Student Veterans are not able to make informed decisions about institutions, nor wisely set goals for their higher education. Having mere data without a touchstone makes it almost impossible for Student Veterans to know if an institution's net cost, graduation rate, average post-graduation income, and loan repayment rates are excellent or mediocre. Being able to compare one school to another school does not solve this problem, again, because the touchstone of a national median has been taken away from the data. This cripples Student Veterans in their endeavors to make informed and wise choices about the future of their education and for the wellbeing of their families.

Furthermore, ED's decision to do away with national medians meant the cessation of invaluable data employed by VA, DOD, and CFPB in their Veteran aid tools. Upon the Department's update to the College Scorecard, all of their tools became obsolete or unable to operate. The Department appears to be unconcerned by this, being unwilling to provide this necessary data and its proven methodology, which is unacceptable. These agencies have urgently patched their online tools, but are unable to continue to update their data, meaning all posted medians and averages will remain obsolete and, therefore, meaningless and misleading.

We urge the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on Education and Workforce to insist that the Department of Education reinstate national medians on the College Scorecard, and to continue collecting and providing the data upon which the VA, DOD, and CFPB tools depend, for the sake of our Student Veterans and all students of our nation.



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