

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Miguel Cardona
Secretary of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona,

On behalf of the undersigned, who represent the interest and concerns of well over one million members of the Uniformed Services, their family members, retirees, and survivors, we respectfully request your commitment to ensuring that future Department of Education negotiated rule-making committees incorporate representation from a diverse array of Veteran organizations, reflecting a wide range of interests, opinions, and perspectives.

While our organizations have been proud to engage during public comment periods at negotiated rule-making hearings, we are troubled by the lack of diversity in voices and perspectives chosen to advocate for the interests of Student Veterans on these committees. Our concerns are compounded by the repeated selection of a single individual to fulfill this role.

We have noticed consistently a single representative from Veterans Education Success (VES) has been chosen as the Veteran negotiator. Not only has this repetition prevented other voices from having a seat at the table, but recently questions have arisen regarding VES's suitability for representation given allegations of bias and unethical conduct by one of their representatives, as corroborated by a report from the Department of Veteran's Affairs Office of Inspector General.

Student Veterans rightfully expect and deserve trust and confidence in the processes that influence the educational benefits they have earned, as well as in those selected to advocate for their interests. There is a plethora of individual Veterans, groups, and organizations eager to champion the cause of their fellow Veterans on negotiated rule-making committees. Therefore, the repeated selection of a singular participant undermines confidence in the negotiated rule-making process and compromises the overall integrity of its outcomes.

For these reasons, we implore you to pledge to choose new voices that will represent a diverse array of Veteran perspectives in future committee selections.

Sincerely,

[AFG Free](#)
[Centurian Military Alliance](#)
[Flanders Fields](#)
[Freedom Bird Foundation](#)
[Heart of an Ace](#)

[Joint Operation North Star](#)
[NMRG Rescue Project](#)
[Operation 620](#)
[Operation Recovery](#)
[Ops Sacred Promise](#)
[Project Exodus Relief](#)
[React DC](#)
[Rule 20](#)
[Save Our Allies](#)
[Special Operations Association of America](#)
[Task Force Argo](#)
[Task Force Pineapple](#)
[The Independence Fund](#)
[The Lifeline Foundation](#)
[The Moral Compass Federation](#)
[The Veteran's Education Project](#)
[Ukraine NGO Coordination Network](#)