

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2025

Veterans Education Project Applauds Introduction of the Veteran Education Empowerment Act

Washington, D.C. – The Veterans Education Project (VEP) applauds Representatives Lois Frankel (D-FL-22) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12) for reintroducing the Veteran Education Empowerment Act, bipartisan legislation to strengthen support services for student veterans at colleges and universities nationwide. The bill authorizes and improves grant funding to help institutions establish, expand, and operate Student Veteran Success Centers, which provide crucial academic, career, and wellness resources that help veterans thrive in higher education.

“Today’s student veterans face unique obstacles as they transition from military service into academic life,” said Steve Patterson, Executive Director of the Veterans Education Project. “The Veteran Education Empowerment Act will expand critical services on campus, including transition support, academic and career counseling, peer mentorship, and disability assistance. VEP strongly supports this effort to ensure veterans have the tools they need to succeed.”

The legislation builds on a proven model by reauthorizing and enhancing the Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success grant program, originally established by Congress to help fund dedicated veteran support centers. Under the proposed framework, student veteran centers would be better equipped to assist veterans, servicemembers, and their families with challenges related to academic readiness, classroom integration, benefits navigation, and career planning.

“Student Veteran Success Centers are an institution best practice,” Patterson added. “These centers help reduce isolation on campus, foster community, and connect veterans with the resources they earned through service.”

VEP urges Congress to advance the Veteran Education Empowerment Act and secure sustainable support for student veterans across institutions of higher education.

For more information or to support this initiative, please contact steve@thevep.org

About the Veterans Education Project

The Veterans Education Project (VEP) is a nonpartisan advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that veterans, service members, and their families receive fair and equitable access to education benefits. VEP works with policymakers, educators, and veteran communities to advance legislation that protects and expands opportunities for those who have served.