

June 25, 2012

Members of the Senate Education and VAEP Committees,

Thank you for your time and coordination of the joint hearing that was held last week on military and veteran supportive campuses.

I believe that you were provided with sufficient evidence as we move forward on this issue.

I would like to expand on some comments that I made. The transition that I went through was extremely cumbersome and frustrating when I started school in 2009. My focus of the hearing was to simply discuss my transition of veterans and the difficulties that veterans and service members face on college campuses in hopes of solving the issues that I noted. I believe colleges can serve as a mediator to many of the issues that transitioning service members face. I am delighted and very proud to say that Shippensburg University and other SSHE schools, specifically West Chester and California University have made leaps and bounds with assisting student veterans as they transition from the military.

Although some schools are moving in the right direction to assist student veterans, there is still much work that needs to be done to ensure all colleges are providing the programs and services that they say they are providing to our veterans and service members. As noted in my testimony, colleges in PA need to be held accountable for what they promise veterans and service members according the "Military Friendly" school's list and the principles and criteria for Service Members Opportunity Colleges Consortium.

In closing, I commend those colleges that are committed and are working toward assisting veterans and service members and I shake my head at those that don't.

I look forward to working with each of you in the near future as we explore options to address these issues.

Respectfully,

Josh Lang

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