



VETERANS EDUCATION SUCCESS

HB 1130: Higher Education - For-profit Institutions - Standards of Operation
Position: Oppose

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Room 121, HOB
Annapolis, MD 21401
cc: Members, Appropriations Committee

Honorable Chair McIntosh and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ramond Curtis, and I am the State Policy Manager for Veterans Education Success, a nonprofit veteran-serving organization that advocates for public policy to ensure veterans' higher education success and to protect and defend the integrity and promise of the GI Bill.

I am writing today in opposition to HB 1130, which seeks to weaken requirements under the recently passed Veterans Education Protection Act.

According to data released in a 2016 report by the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition titled "*Making the Grade? An Analysis of For-Profit and Career Schools in Maryland*," students at for-profit schools in Maryland are paying more for their education, taking out larger loans, and facing higher default rates on their loans than students at public institutions.¹ It has become abundantly clear that many for-profit colleges across the state and country are not adequately serving students and are leaving them with worthless credits and enormous student debt. As the US Senate Education Committee reported, for-profit colleges serve only 13% of students but account for half of the nation's student loan default problem.²

We are grateful that Maryland is focusing on protecting students from predatory for-profit schools because we know how critical postsecondary education attainment is to economic success. For that reason, we oppose HB 1130 and the unnecessary exemptions it would include. We hope you take this opportunity to protect Maryland veterans and urge you to vote no on HB 1130.

Respectfully,

Ramond Curtis, Veterans Education Success

¹ See Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition "Making the Grade: An Analysis of For-Profit Schools in Maryland" available at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b05bed59772ae16550f90de/t/5cd33603e79c70b5a0db5ad2/1557345799535/Making+the+Grade+Report.pdf>

² See US Senate Committee report, *ibid* FN 8