

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1216

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans affected by school closures certain relief and restoration of educational benefits, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 2017

Mr. MESSER (for himself, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. DESANTIS, and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans affected by school closures certain relief and restoration of educational benefits, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Veterans  
5 From School Closures Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO POST-9/11 EDU-**  
2 **CATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS AF-**  
3 **FECTED BY CLOSURES OF EDUCATIONAL IN-**  
4 **STITUTIONS.**

5 (1) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 3312  
6 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-  
7 ing at the end the following new subsection:

8 “(d) DISCONTINUATION OF EDUCATION DUE TO  
9 CLOSURE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any payment of edu-  
11 cational assistance described in paragraph (2) shall  
12 not—

13 “(A) be charged against any entitlement to  
14 educational assistance of the individual con-  
15 cerned under this chapter; or

16 “(B) be counted against the aggregate pe-  
17 riod for which section 3695 of this title limits  
18 the individual’s receipt of educational assistance  
19 under this chapter.

20 “(2) DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT OF EDU-  
21 CATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Subject to paragraph (3),  
22 the payment of educational assistance described in  
23 this paragraph is the payment of such assistance to  
24 an individual for pursuit of a course or courses  
25 under this chapter if the Secretary finds that the in-  
26 dividual—

1           “(A) was forced to discontinue such course  
2           of study pursuit as a result of a permanent or  
3           temporary closure of an educational institution;  
4           or

5           “(B) did not receive credit, or lost training  
6           time, toward completion of the program of edu-  
7           cation being pursued at the time of such clo-  
8           sure.

9           “(3) PERIOD FOR WHICH PAYMENT NOT  
10          CHARGED.—The period for which, by reason of this  
11          subsection, educational assistance is not charged  
12          against entitlement or counted toward the applicable  
13          aggregate period under section 3695 of this title  
14          shall not exceed the aggregate period permitted  
15          under such section.”.

16          (2) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (d) of such  
17          section, as added by paragraph (1), shall apply with  
18          respect to courses and programs of education discon-  
19          tinued as described in paragraph (2) of such sub-  
20          section after August 1, 2016.

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