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**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

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November 20, 2025

Mr. Ted Mitchell  
President  
American Council on Education  
1 Dupont Circle NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

As Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, it is a priority to ensure student veterans receive their education payments from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on time. Due to the retiring of the antiquated Benefits Delivery Network, and reconciling data, it is my understanding that there have been delayed payments for tens of thousands of students using the Chapter 35 Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program. I have requested the Subcommittee staff to work with VA to ensure that this technological update is resolved and individuals receive the benefits they are due from VA. The Subcommittee also intends to review the events that led to the delayed payments to individuals.

While Chapter 35 payments go directly to the individual instead of the institution, I am writing to you today to ask for your member institutions to provide a grace period for the veterans and families who have been impacted by this delay. If you are aware of any students who are utilizing VA education benefits who are not receiving their benefits on time, please reach out to Mr. Chase Bergerson, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, via email at [Chase.Bergerson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Chase.Bergerson@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



**DERRICK VAN ORDEN**  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

Cc: The Honorable Chris Pappas, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity,  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs