



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Michael R. Pence
Governor

September 9, 2016

Secretary Robert A. McDonald
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald,

On behalf of all Hoosier veterans, Lieutenant Governor Eric Holcomb, Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Director Jim Brown, and I are calling on the VA to fully reimburse student veterans who used the GI Bill to enroll at ITT Technical Institute during 2016 so they may have the opportunity to pursue their education at another institution.

As you are likely aware, ITT Technical Institute was forced to close its doors due to its inability to comply with federal accreditation standards. This sudden and abrupt closing left 662 Hoosiers out of work and nearly 1,000 students stranded without the ability to finish their degrees. While the federal government has a process in place to forgive loans for students who are using federal student aid, it does not take into account the many students who are veterans utilizing Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to attend college. For those students, GI Bill benefits have been used despite not completing their degree, and the benefits are unable to be reapplied to another institution to complete their education.

For this reason, our veterans are being unfairly punished due to lack of flexibility in the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which does not take into account such situations, such as this recent closure, that are of no fault to the students. We cannot allow this to stand.

These brave men and women, who selflessly and voluntarily signed up to defend and protect our great nation, are now left without a solution to earn the education benefits we, as a country, promised them. After serving our country, these brave men and women absolutely deserve the opportunity to pursue continuing education in their field of choice.

It is our hope that you will recognize the importance of this request and do all you can to ensure that the country that our veterans fought for delivers on its promise.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Pence
Governor of Indiana

Eric J. Holcomb
Lt. Governor of Indiana

James M. Brown
Indiana Department
of Veterans Affairs