



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Congressman Mike Coffman meets Colorado Veterans about GI Bill Issues
*Active duty and former service-members earn educational benefits through
Honorable service, but some schools target Veterans with dishonorable practices*

AURORA, CO – U.S. Representative Mike Coffman (R-CO) met yesterday with a group of Colorado military veterans who were targeted for deception and fraud when they used their GI Bill educational benefits. From excessive fees to withholding transcripts to signing students up for loans they had not authorized, Colorado veterans have faced a number of unethical practices by schools eager to cash in on their federal benefits.

Brian Providence served as a Petty Officer Second Class for nine years in the U.S. Navy. After being Honorably discharged in 2004, he utilized his Montgomery GI Bill educational benefits to attend ITT Technical Institute, which declared bankruptcy last year. Although he graduated near the top of his class, Brian has been unable to transfer his credits and is now stuck with a degree that holds no value.

Rick Porter served for 26 years in the U.S. Army. After being Honorably discharged, he utilized his GI Bill educational benefits to attend Colorado Technical University online. Rick completed his Associates, Bachelors, and Masters degrees, but despite recruiting promises, CTU has offered no career assistance.

Ryan Clark served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army. During his enlistment, he utilized tuition assistance to attend DeVry University. During that time and while he was deployed to Iraq, DeVry changed Ryan's major without his knowledge and charged him personally with tuition and fees that he was unaware of and did not authorize. DeVry later told Ryan he could not transfer his credits until he paid nearly \$10,000.

Jarrold Thoma served as a Corporal in the U.S. Army. After being Honorably discharged in 2005, he utilized his GI Bill to attend DeVry University, finishing his degree in Westminster. Jarrold encountered numerous issues at DeVry, including the removal of key courses from the curriculum and inexperienced professors. Jarrold's Borrower's Defense application has been under review for nearly two years.

“We are grateful to Congressman Mike Coffman for meeting today with these defrauded veterans and offering his assistance,” said Tyson Manker, Veterans Advocate at [Veterans Education Success](#), which provides free assistance to veterans who were deceived or defrauded by a college. “Too many colleges see veterans as nothing more than dollar signs in uniform. America’s heroes should be treated with honor and respect when they become college students, not targets for consumer fraud.”

“I deeply appreciate the work of ‘Veterans Education Success’ and thank them for sharing with me today the obstacles veterans are facing in getting their education,” said Rep. Coffman. “I look forward to working with this organization to help find solutions that will benefit all of our veterans facing similar challenges.”

Lawmakers in Congress are considering measures to restore benefits to these and other student veterans who, at no fault of their own, were targeted with fraudulent and deceptive practices by unethical colleges and schools. For example, H.R. 1216 ‘*Protecting Veterans from School Closures Act of 2017*’ was introduced in the House and has been referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Development.

Representative Coffman is a co-sponsor of this legislation, the full text of which you can read [here](#).

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