



To the Colorado State House Education Committee

Dear Madam Chair and committee members,

My name is James Owens, and I am the current President of the Veterans at Adams Club at Adams State University. I am writing you today in support of HB 17-1004. Veterans today have many different concerns about attending institutions of higher learning. Two consistent concerns regarding this bill have to do with exhausting the Post 9-11 G.I. Bill; which institution will give the most course credit for their service to the degree they are pursuing.

With the first concern, many veterans' enter an institution of higher learning with families, car payments, and other constraints that will require them to work through college. This will limit the number of credit hours veterans' can take in each semester. In order to graduate within the thirty-six month limitation of the G.I Bill, you must take at least fifteen credit hours per-semester. Combining these factors increases the risk of the veteran failing to attain their degree.

The second concern ties directly into the first. Veterans' have come to understand that each institution will not award the same number of credit hours for their training and experience. Often, the experience and training received in the military is relatable to their chosen degree plan. Yet, to our dismay, the course credits awarded will rarely count towards our degree plan. For example, my brother worked as a communications specialist in the U.S Army. He served honorably, decided to attend college to make himself more a competitive job applicant. His institution of choice did not award him any credits for his eight years of experience. If this changes, a veteran's chance of success will increase.

With experience and training counting towards a degree plan, it will give the veteran leeway in our thirty-six month window. With each institution of higher learning awarding the same credit hours as the other. This will give the veteran a greater flexibility in choosing the institution that is right for them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Owens".

Veteran's/Military Affairs

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