Dear Student,

The *Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act*, also known as the “Forever GI Bill,” includes changes to how the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pays your Post-9/11 GI Bill® Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA).

In November, VA announced a reset regarding implementing portions of the law pertaining to the MHA, and has since made significant progress towards a December 1, 2019 implementation.

We want to update you on the progress to date on implementing these changes that may affect you.

**Status Update: 2019 MHA and Tuition & Fees Cap**

Until December 1, 2019, VA will continue to pay all Post-9/11 GI Bill students at the VA - uncapped rate. VA recently installed the Academic Year 2019-2020 rates into the system for terms that start on or after August 1, 2019. The new MHA rates are also reflected on the [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#). You are encouraged to utilize the tool by

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*Students: Validate your email address to stay informed.*

*Get Started*
entering in your school information and campus zip code to determine your estimated monthly housing payment.

In addition, VA published the new annual tuition and fees cap for out of state and private schools, which go into effect for terms that start on or after August 1, 2019.

**Reminder - How the Colmery Act Impacts Students’ Monthly Housing Allowance Calculations**

**MHA Based on Campus where Student Attends the Majority of their Classes (Section 107):** For terms that started on or after August 1, 2018, VA will need to ensure your MHA is based on the campus location where you attend the majority of your classes. The location may be the main campus, a branch campus or an extension campus. Starting December 1, 2019, VA will work with your School Certifying Official (SCO) to provide this information to VA when certifying your enrollment for Spring 2020 and make any necessary corrections to any previously submitted enrollments.

**MHA Based on the Department of Defense’s Capped Rates (Section 501):** This section directly aligns the MHA rates with the Department of Defense Basic Allowance Housing rates for those who first started using the Post-9/11 GI Bill program on or after January 1, 2018.

- If you began using your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for the first-time on or after January 1, 2018, your payment is the DoD BAH rate for an E-5 with dependents
- If you began using your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit for the first-time prior to January 1, 2018, your payment will not change from the VA uncapped rate

Technology changes to VA’s claims processing systems are currently underway to update your benefits as outlined above and VA is on track for updates to go live by December 1, 2019.

**Action Requested: Validate Your Email Address**

VA wants to keep you informed regarding your benefits or any changes to the program. VA is hosting a series of webinars, focus groups and training, and creating
communications toolkits and Fact Sheets to answer your questions. VA understands SCOs are the front line to aid you in answering your questions, so VA is working hard to ensure they have the latest information.

To ensure you receive the latest information, you will need to validate your email. You can do this by:

- Logging in to your account
- Accessing eBenefits
- Calling VA’s Call Center at 888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551)

Respectfully,

Education Service