

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 3, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Blanche:

We write to you today with grave concerns about the recent *Washington Post* article on the fraud associated with and abuse of Post 9/11 G.I. Bill educational benefits.¹ Specifically, the reporting highlights cases where veterans in New Hampshire, Texas, California, Georgia and Florida, and ultimately the American taxpayer, were defrauded out of hundreds of millions of dollars by predatory schools.² In a number of these cases, federal prosecutors failed to press charges, reached settlements for a fraction of the school's ill-gotten gains or recommended more lenient sentences than even the judge ultimately felt were correct.

Since its inception during World War II, the G.I. Bill was intended to provide veterans with the education and skills necessary to lead productive lives. Veterans earn educational benefits through their service to the United States. Millions of veterans have successfully used this program to obtain education and training from universities, colleges and trade and vocational schools. The Post 9/11 G.I. Bill provides up to 36 months of educational benefits for veterans who served more than 90 days of active duty after September 11, 2001.

However, as the *Washington Post* reported, some for-profit schools have taken advantage of both veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) by providing substandard education, either charging more tuition as compared to non-veterans or aggressively recruiting veterans with little regard for whether the school's curriculum helps veterans. Indeed, this has been the case for far too long.³

Fraud against our veterans must be prosecuted vigorously. The *Washington Post* documented how light the punishment was for the trade schools who charged exorbitant rates for very little education or training. In one case, the settlement that Department of Justice prosecutors struck was rejected by the judge because it was too lenient.⁴ In another case, a U.S. Attorney reached a

¹ "How predatory trade schools drained \$300 million from the GI Bill and cheated veterans," by Craig Whitlock and Andrew Ba Tran, *The Washington Post*, August 4, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/interactive/2026/08/04/gi-bill-schools-charged-huge-sums-train-vets-how-grow-grass-make-fake-rocks/>.

² Id.

³ E.g. "For Profit Higher Education: The Failure to Safeguard the Federal Investment and Ensure Student Success," Majority Committee Staff Report and Accompanying Minority Committee Staff Views, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, July 30, 2012, <https://web.archive.org/web/20140704012106/http://www.harkin.senate.gov/help/forprofitcolleges.cfm>.

⁴ "How predatory trade schools drained \$300 million from the GI Bill and cheated veterans."

\$200,000 False Claims Act settlement with a trade school that charged the VA about \$2.1 million including up to \$14,900 per student for a four-to-five-day course on growing grass.

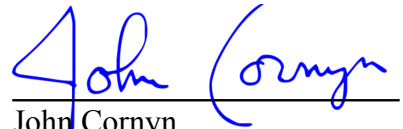
We urge the Department to reexamine the procedures for U.S. Attorneys to investigate and prosecute alleged G.I. Bill fraud, especially the criteria for settling cases that result in fines constituting a fraction of the overall fraud. We also call on the Department to reconsider how it cooperates with the Department of Veterans Affairs and state educational and law enforcement agencies to better target fraud and abuse of our veterans and the G.I. Bill program.

We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator