



**Legislative Alert #113-3: SUPPORT H.R. 357 and S. 257, the GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2013**  
VETERANS

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**Issue Background:** Currently, many veterans of the uniformed services are unable to use their GI Bill benefits at an institution of higher education of their choice, because their home of record is in another state. Not allowing GI Bill benefits to be used for high out-of-State tuition rates is an understandable policy that goes to strengthen the viability of the long term availability of GI Bill funds. However, the special circumstances that require servicemembers to live in certain areas, especially during the time when they are separated from the uniformed services, poses significant challenges to veterans wishing to use this important benefit

**Action Required:** Contact your Representatives and Senators and urge them to support and cosponsor H.R. 357, introduced by Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL-01), and S. 257, introduced by Senator John Boozman (R-AR), the GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2013, which would require courses of education provided by public institutions of higher education, that are approved for purposes of the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, to charge veterans tuition and fees at the in-State rate.

**Details (To Be Put Into Letter):**

There are many veterans of the uniformed services who are unable to use their GI Bill at an institution of higher education of their choice, because their home of record is in another state. As public colleges and universities seek ways to recoup decreasing revenues, many have significantly raised the costs of out-of-state tuition. The cap for GI Bill benefits often falls short of that high out-of-state rate. Furthermore, because of the nature of military service, veterans, and beneficiaries, often have a difficult time establishing residency for purposes of obtaining in-State tuition rates. Circumstances such as these, which oftentimes require them to live in certain areas, especially during the time when they are separated from the uniformed services, pose significant challenges when they wish to use this important benefit.

H.R. 357 and S. 257 require courses of education provided by public institutions of higher education to charge veterans tuition and fees at the in-State rate. By requiring states that receive GI Bill benefit payments to offer all veterans in-state tuition, Congress stays true to the intent of the GI Bill by enabling our veterans to pursue a higher education and jobs skills through the benefits they have earned. In addition, this helps ease the hardship veteran's face when trying to use their GI Bill

benefits they would otherwise be unable to use due to their home of record not being in the state of that institution.

**Take Action:** Click the “Take Action” link at the top of the Alert to immediately email and/or write to your Senators and Representatives. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. You can also write and/or e-mail the ‘Details’ section or edit as you desire for a more personalized communication . Also, contact friends and family and urge them to use the Contact Congress feature on AUSN’s website as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to our Director of Legislation, Anthony Wallis, at 703-548-5800 or at [Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org](mailto:Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org).