United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 12, 2015

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald,

On a recent Monday morning, student veterans attending Corinthian Colleges, Inc. schools across the country showed up on campus only to find the doors locked. The catastrophic collapse of the for-profit Corinthian, which culminated in the closure of 28 schools and a bankruptcy filing last week, has left thousands of students in the lurch – including hundreds of veterans who used taxpayer-funded Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to enroll. These veteran students, many of whom fell victim to Corinthian's predatory marketing schemes and fraudulent job placement information, are in urgent need of guidance regarding the effect the bankruptcy and closures will have on them. We request that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) immediately contact every veteran who was enrolled at a Corinthian school and provide thorough guidance regarding this matter.

We are aware that VA has posted some limited information online, including a copy of the letter that Corinthian sent to students and details about informational meetings that Corinthian will hold at their facilities. However, this fails to address the particular and immediate needs of affected student veterans. VA must provide student veterans enrolled at Corinthian schools with information regarding:

1. The possibility of a housing allowance interruption, including:
    a. Steps that student veterans can take to minimize such an interruption;
    b. How VA will calculate housing allowances for students who were only enrolled in a school for part of a month; and
    c. Any VA emergency housing options that are available for affected students.
2. The effects of Corinthian's bankruptcy and school closures on the GI Bill entitlement status of affected students.
3. The forgiveness options that are available to student veterans who also have federal Direct Loans from the Department of Education, including school-closure discharge and defense-to-repayment options, and how reenrolling at another school would affect the availability of those options.
4. How affected students can use the GI Bill Comparison Tool to find other institutions in their area that have been approved to receive GI Bill benefits.

We are also working to give the VA additional authority to provide meaningful relief to student veterans receiving GI Bill benefits who have been harmed by a school closure, and we urge you to work with us toward that common goal – most urgently, ensuring that these student veterans are not further harmed by Corinthian's misconduct. This company's failure should be a clarion call to action for stronger veteran protections against predatory for-profit schools. Thank

you for working with us to ensure that these student veterans receive the guidance they need. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senate

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate

Edward J. Markey
United States Senate

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate

Sherrod Brown
United States Senate

Barbara Boxer
United States Senate

Ron Wyden
United States Senate