**H.R. 3016 to Severely Limit GI Bill Benefits for Flight Training**

H.R. 3016: VA Provider Equity Act, sponsored by Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio), proposes to cut educational benefits for veterans by $882 million over the next ten years. Highlights of this bill are:

1. A cap will be placed on total VA reimbursement for veterans in flight training at $20,235 per year if they are involved in a four year aviation degree.
2. The VA will no longer pay for the private pilot license and veterans will be required to shoulder this cost on their own or possess a private pilot license before matriculating into a commercial aviation degree program.
3. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that 600 veterans per year will be denied access to flight training with the enactment of this legislation.

The University Aviation Association (UAA) stands united with our member institutions in promoting flight training for all students, including veterans who have served our country. Although this bill was passed in the House, it has not yet been approved by the Senate. Members may contact elected House and Senate members on the [House](http://www.house.gov/representatives/) and [Senate](http://www.house.gov/representatives/) website.

According to Dr. Suzanne Kearns, President of the UAA, “This Act is a shortsighted move that will reduce the supply of aviators during a pilot shortage within the National Airspace System. It is a severe disservice to veterans, eliminating a benefit that was promised to them in recognition of their service to this country. Lastly, it specifically targets collegiate flight training programs and fails to recognize that this specialized education incurs justifiable expenses beyond those encountered within a traditional degree program. We strongly encourage our UAA institutional and professional members to reach out to their elected representatives to voice opposition to this bill.”

The text of the bill may be found [here](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/hr3016/text).

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The University Aviation Association (UAA) is the voice of collegiate aviation to its members, the industry, government and the general public. Through the collective expertise of its members, this nonprofit organization plays a pivotal role in the advancement of degree-granting aviation programs that represent all segments of aviation. Today, UAA has more than 525 members, including 105 accredited colleges and universities. The organization and its members are poised to meet the ever-changing needs of the aviation industry and address the challenges of the 21st century.