

# **Veteran Education Empowerment Act (H.R. 5589)**

Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-22)

## **Establishing a grant program:**

The *Veteran Education Empowerment Act* is a bipartisan bill that would establish a grant program in the Department of Education to help institutions of higher education establish veteran student centers.

A veteran student center is a dedicated space on a college or university campus that provides students who are veterans or members of the Armed Forces a lounge or meeting space and a centralized office for veteran services. The office located in the veteran student center would be required to be staffed by trained employees and volunteers and provide students with assistance relating to:

1. Transitioning from the military to student life;
2. Transitioning to the civilian workforce;
3. Networking with other veteran students;
4. Understanding and obtaining federal and state benefits; and
5. Understanding how to succeed in school and find a job.

## **What is the purpose?**

The purpose of the *Veteran Education Empowerment Act* is to address the unique hardships faced by veterans in transitioning from the battlefield to the classroom and eventually to the workforce. There is a demonstrated need for institutions of higher education to improve the ways in which they assist veteran students, and there are multiple published findings that establishing a veteran student center is a recognized best practice.

## **Who is eligible?**

Grants would be limited to public and non-profit schools with 15,000 or more students, at least one percent of whom are veterans or members of the Armed Forces. The school also would have to be located in a community with a significant veteran population and be active in carrying out programs that assist veterans in the local community.

## **What does it provide?**

Grantees would be allowed to use the grant to establish, maintain, or improve a veteran student center. Each grant would be for a four-year period and would not exceed a total of \$500,000.