



Commonwealth of Virginia

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 28, 2024

The Honorable Mark D. Sickles, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission
919 East Main Street
Suite 2101
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Delegate Sickles:

We are writing to request that the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission (JLARC) undertake a thorough and comprehensive review of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program established in Title 23.1, Chapter 6, Code of Virginia, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program and evaluate all aspects of eligibility criteria, program parameters, and impact on Virginia's higher education institutions and tuition paying students. In particular, we request JLARC staff to: (i) evaluate the history, current structure and utilization trends of the program; (ii) analyze participant data; (iii) validate the waiver costs reported by public higher education institutions; (iv) identify and compare veterans' educational benefits provided in other states and determine best practices; and (v) review methods to project future year enrollment and costs based on current program parameters and the impact of any recommended changes.

The JLARC report shall include recommendations on legislative action and budgetary modifications that could be made to improve the stability and strength of the program and ensure its long-term viability.

It is our firm expectation that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) will fully cooperate with JLARC's review.

We request that JLARC submit its findings to the Governor and the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees by September 1, 2024.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Luke E. Torian in black ink.

Luke E. Torian
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Handwritten signature of L. Louise Lucas in black ink.

L. Louise Lucas
Chair, Senate Finance & Appropriations
Committee

cc: The Honorable Don Scott, Speaker
The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, Vice Chair, JLARC
Mr. Hal E. Greer, Director, JLARC