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Issue Contact: Joy Craig at [jcraig@vfw.org](mailto:jcraig@vfw.org) for Transition from Service  
Issue Contact: Joe Grassi at [jgrassi@vfw.org](mailto:jgrassi@vfw.org) for Post-9/11 GI Bill Book Stipend

## Other Areas of Concern

### **Cracking Down on Predatory Claims Companies**

While the VFW respects a veteran's right to choose who assists with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation claim, we remain deeply concerned about unaccredited actors commonly known as "Claim Sharks" who exploit veterans through deceptive and predatory business practices. Although federal inaction persists, recent court decisions affecting state-level legislation demonstrate growing momentum to hold these actors accountable.

The VFW urges Congress to enact legislation that would meaningfully prohibit the exploitation of veterans by unscrupulous Claim Sharks, strengthen the VA accreditation system, and oppose proposals such as H.R.3132, *CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025*, that would place veterans in debt merely for seeking their earned benefits.

### **Transition from Service**

In early 2024, VA launched its improved Transition Assistance Program (TAP) 6.0 benefits and services curriculum that includes an accredited representative to physically assist service members with filing their Benefits Delivery at Discharge claims. Data show this initiative has been effective in increasing the number of transitioning service members receiving their benefits upon discharge.

The VFW urges Congress to pass H.R.1845, *TAP Promotion Act*, to codify this facet of VA's TAP curriculum.

### **Post-9/11 GI Bill Book Stipend**

The Post-9/11 GI Bill remains one of the most impactful benefits earned through military service that helps veterans pursue higher education and career advancement. However, its book stipend has not changed since the program's establishment in 2009 and has not kept pace with inflation or the rising cost of education.

The VFW urges Congress to pass H.R.1965, *Veteran Education Assistance Adjustment Act*, to adjust the Post-9/11 GI Bill book stipend from \$1,000 to \$1,400, and to include annual increases based on the Consumer Price Index to keep pace with inflation and rising costs.

### **Emerging Toxic Exposures**

Presumptions of service connection play a critical role in reducing the evidentiary burden on veterans seeking VA disability compensation. Accordingly, the VFW is deeply concerned by VA's September 2025 decision to remove male breast cancer from the *Honoring our PACT Act of 2022* (Public Law 117-168) presumptive list without transparently releasing publicly available scientific data to explain the removal.

The VFW urges Congress to conduct oversight hearings to ensure VA administers the legislation's presumption decision process transparently and in full compliance with the law.

