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Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 5:06 PM

To: helen@helenhead.com; tom@stevensvermont.com; job@jobtate.com; Kevin Christie; Rachael Fields; Diana Gonzalez; Mary Howard; Heidi Scheuermann; Brian Smith; Vicki Strong; Tommy Walz

Cc: Ron Wild

Subject: H.72 The Vermont National Guard Educational Assistance Program | Private Colleges

Dear Committee Members:

I am responding to the request to provide addition information regarding the private colleges support for Vermont National Guard students. Currently, the private colleges have 24 National Guard students who are participating in the loan/scholarship program. **Please see the chart below.** This is nearly the same amount of students in the VSC system (30 students) and more than UVM (16 students).

Champlain College and Norwich University serve the most students. I know you are considering the bill tomorrow, so wanted you to have the information I was able to obtain today.

After the scholarship and federal financial aid, St. Michael's College fully funds Vermont Guard students' tuition. This, however, is through a separate agreement with the National Guard. They have 9 Guard students who are not participating in the the loan/scholarship program and one who is in the program.

Southern Vermont College has 3 students in the Vermont National Guard, but none are participating in the loan/scholarship program. The average institutional aid for each student is \$11,000 per year. The full tuition rate is \$11,850.

As Katie Hawley of Champlain College testified National Guard members and their families are able to pursue a degree through the College's online truEd program for \$167 per credit, instead of the standard \$641 per credit. Champlain spends \$818,130 annually to support veteran and military service members pursuing their education. Norwich University's gift awards through the National Guard Education Assistant Program equal (\$129,075/ FY16-17) and for the Guaranteed Reserve Forces Scholarship (\$394,060/FY16-17).

We hope you allow Guard students to continue using scholarship funds at the institution that best fits their academic needs regardless of whether it is a private or public institution.

Number of students receiving National Guard Scholarships attending Private Schools		
School	FY '16	FY'17
Champlain College	11	16
Green Mountain College	1	
Norwich	4	6
St. Michael's	2	1
Vt Law	0	1
Total Students	18	24

Please let me know if you have further questions.

Thank you,
Susan

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