

**From:** Christopher Bean [mailto:cbean2400@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2017 2:33 PM

**To:** helen@helenhead.com; Tom Stevens; Job Tate; Kevin Christie; Rachael Fields; Diana Gonzalez; Mary Howard; Heidi Scheuermann; Brian Smith; Vicki Strong; Ron Wild; Tommy Walz

**Subject:** Support for Bill H.72 "Vermont GI Bill"

Dear Elected Representatives,

I am writing to you, asking for your support of Bill H.72, tuition assistance for VT National Guard Soldiers and Airmen at VT State Colleges. (<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.72> )

A Vermont "GI Bill" would be very beneficial for the State of Vermont by keeping our youth here in Vermont. Many other states around us have enacted this bill and we are losing many of our VT high school students who want to join the military to other states.

As an Air National Guard Airman currently serving here in Vermont and a father of two children, I would like to be able to attend college as well as have the opportunity for my children to be able to attend college in VT and subsequently find a job/career here in VT. If they should so choose to join the VT National Guard, Bill H.72 would ensure that their tuition is free. Currently eligible members are joining national guard units out of state to seek this benefit, which is hurting our numbers here in VT as well as the economy.

As you are aware, the Vermont National Guard is a vital contributor to the State of Vermont, and economy of Vermont, additionally providing support during State emergencies and support for our Nation's defense. Our Soldiers and Airmen are trained and ready to serve our communities in numerous ways.

Passing H.72 will provide tuition assistance and would ensure the long-term viability of the State's National Guard, a 200 million dollar federally supported State agency.

I hope you will grant this issue favorable consideration and thank you for your time. Additionally, I would invite you all to get to know your local Vermont National Guard Air and Army base and or Armory. We would love for you to know what we do for you and the State of Vermont. Please seek out opportunities to get to know your Vermont National Guard.

Chris Bean  
Franklin County Vermont Resident  
VT National Guard Member  
VT American Legion Member