
Murphy Announces "Restore the Promise GI Bill"™ to Eliminate Deadline for Montgomery GI Bill Benefits

Would allow older veterans to access GI Bill education benefits

MERIDEN-Congressman Chris Murphy today announced the Restore the Promise GI Bill, legislation that would allow more American veterans to go back to school. Murphy's bill would eliminate the current ten year deadline for veterans to access their education benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill.

"America's veterans have served our country with courage and honor," said Murphy. "When they come home, it's our turn to serve them. The unemployment rate for veterans in Connecticut is roughly nine percent, and that's just unacceptable. By eliminating the deadline for veterans to access their GI Bill education benefits, we can open the door for older veterans to go back to school to gain new skills to help them succeed in the 21st century workforce."

The current Montgomery GI Bill program provides up to 36 months of education benefits, which can be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeships/on-the-job training and correspondence courses. However, these benefits expire after ten years following release from active duty.

Murphy's bill would eliminate that ten year expiration, allowing veterans released from active duty more than ten years ago to access the education benefits and return to school.

Murphy was joined by George Beebe, a Vietnam veteran who would be eligible to access education benefits through the Montgomery GI Bill under Murphy's bill.

"This bill has been a long time coming," said Mr. Beebe. "I was shocked when I was told I wasn't eligible for any assistance with school costs because of the ten year limit. After 20 years of service in the Marine Corps and Army, that just didn't seem right. For myself and I'm sure other veterans, learning is a lifetime experience, and at the age of 56, I'm still learning. So I emailed Chris Murphy and I'm so glad he picked this issue up. It means an awful lot and I hope we can get this done."

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