

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Peter Hoffman

Peter.Hoffman@mail.house.gov

Office of United States Congressman Luke Messer

Rep. Messer Discusses Impact of GI Bill Reform at Veterans Roundtable

Messer's Provision Restoring GI Bill Benefits for ITT Tech Students Takes Effect Tuesday

GREENFIELD, Ind. (Monday, Nov. 13, 2017) — U.S. Rep. Luke Messer (IN-06) held a veterans roundtable in Greenfield today to discuss a new law, which takes effect tomorrow, that will restore GI Bill benefits to veterans who were attending ITT Technical Institute when it closed last fall.

More than 7,000 veterans nationwide were impacted by ITT Tech's closure. Messer's provision, which was signed into law by President Trump in August, restores benefits to these veterans if they were unable to transfer their credits to a different institution. The new law also applies to veterans impacted by future school closures.

"When ITT Tech closed its doors, thousands of veterans were left with no degree or path forward," **Messer** said. "Our servicemen and women count on these benefits to help them start a career and build a life after serving our country. The least we could do was make sure they got that chance."

Messer was joined at the roundtable by Jason Nyikos, a U.S. Navy veteran from Greenfield who had to start his degree completely from scratch after spending two years at ITT Tech. Representatives from Veterans Education Success, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans Upward Bound in Richmond and the IUPUI chapter of Student Veterans of America also attended the roundtable, which was held at the Greenfield VFW.

"To spend two years of my life at a place with nothing to show for it was one of the biggest disappointments," **Nyikos** said. "I'm glad these benefits will be restored and that other veterans won't have to go through this in the future."

Veterans Education Success helped organize the event.

"This is a big win for veterans. Not only will this new law help the thousands of veterans who were attending ITT Tech when it closed continue their education, it will help veteran students impacted by school closures in the future," said **Sean Marvin**, legal director of Veterans Education Success.

Following ITT Tech's closure, Messer introduced legislation to restore GI Bill benefits to veterans impacted by school closures, like ITT Tech. In August, President Trump signed this bipartisan legislation [into law](#) as part of a landmark GI Bill reform package.

The broader GI Bill reform legislation eliminates time-based caps on education benefits, allowing veterans to use them whenever they want over their lifetime. It also provides significant increases in GI Bill funding for veterans, surviving spouses and dependents, and allows veterans to take advantage of high technology training.

Messer's provision takes effect Tuesday, Nov. 14. The VA plans to notify those who may qualify for benefit restoration and provide instructions to request restoration of benefits. Veterans can check for updates at the GI Bill webpage <https://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/ForeverGIBill.asp> or call the Education Call Center at [1-888-442-4551](tel:1-888-442-4551).

Photos for use can be found and downloaded [HERE](#).

#

#

#