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6TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC**

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**Via Facsimile (202-273-4880)**

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20420-0002

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As veterans in Alabama and across the country begin their spring semesters under the GI Bill, thousands have yet to receive any type of payment from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The GI Bill administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs provides educational benefits to the brave service men and women who have so honorably served our country. My office has received an alarming number of reports from local veterans who have experienced excessive delays and have been unable to obtain these benefits in a timely manner. Many veterans are not even receiving something as basic as a simple update on the status of their claims. Numerous media reports have highlighted these unacceptable delays, which appear to be a chronic problem within the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Our veterans made a commitment to us, and we must keep our commitment to them. In my district and across the country, these delays are forcing veterans into credit card debt, student loans at higher interest rates, and even choosing between going to school or meeting their daily living expenses. The uncertainty of this situation has also affected colleges and universities, many of whom have tried to accommodate veterans by accepting them for classes without an upfront payment. The current state of this program is not something that I can accept. The Department of Veterans Affairs must rectify this intolerable situation, and I would like a complete accounting of what steps are being taken to make sure that our veterans will receive the GI bill benefits that they have been promised in a prompt fashion.

Please know that one of my priorities in Congress is ensuring that the veterans who have faithfully served our country receive the benefits to which they are entitled, and to that end I am committed to working with you to resolve this urgent situation.

Sincerely,



Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress

STB/jrs