LETTER TO CONGRESS

Send one to your U.S. Representative and one to each of your two Senators. Find your Representative at house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative and your Senators at senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm. Use their web contact form, mail it, or bring it to a local office. Fill in the highlighted parts; a personal sentence or two matters more than anything else in the letter.

Subject: Please introduce the EARNED Act

Dear [Representative / Senator] [Last name],

I'm your constituent in [City, State, ZIP] and [a veteran / the spouse of a veteran / the parent of a service member / a supporter of veterans]. I'm asking you to introduce or cosponsor the EARNED Act in the new Congress and to support including it in the next National Defense Authorization Act.

[One or two sentences on your story or someone you know: their service, what they've done since, and how a degree requirement screened them out.]

The EARNED Act would recognize an honorable four-year enlistment with an accredited Bachelor of Arts in Defense of Freedom, with a concentration in the service member's military specialty. The GI Bill stays fully intact, and veterans who have already served honorably could claim the degree with their service records.

The groundwork exists. The Air Force has recognized enlisted airmen's training with accredited associate degrees since 1977, and service academy graduates leave with a bachelor's after four years. Congress moved federal hiring toward skills with the Chance to Compete Act of 2024, but veterans applying to cities, hospitals and manufacturers are still screened out for lacking a degree. The EARNED Act would recognize the credential they already earned in uniform.

Specifically, I'm asking you to:

- Introduce or cosponsor the EARNED Act as a bill in the new Congress, and
- Support adding it to the Fiscal Year 2028 National Defense Authorization Act.

The full proposal is at earnedact.org. Four years served. One nation defended. One degree earned.

Thank you for your time and for your service.

Sincerely,
[Your name]
[Street address, City, State, ZIP]
[Phone] · [Email]

Tip: Congressional offices sort mail by whether the sender lives in the district, so include your full address. Follow up with a short phone call to the office a week later and ask which staff member handles veterans or defense issues.

A nonpartisan citizen proposal started in Surprise, Arizona. Not affiliated with the Department of Defense or any branch of service.