

**Introduced by Senator Denham**

**(Coauthors: Senators Aanestad, Alquist, Correa, Cox, Huff, Maldonado, Negrete McLeod, Runner, Strickland, Wiggins, Wright, and Wyland)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Tom Berryhill, Cook, Davis, DeVore, Fletcher, Fong, Gaines, Gilmore, Jeffries, Knight, Logue, Salas, and Smyth)

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 16—Relative to veterans’ educational benefits.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 16, as introduced, Denham. Veterans: educational benefits.

This measure would request that the President and the Congress of the United States pass the H.R. 2474 that would restore funding for California veterans pursuing higher education.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 2008, Congress passed the Post-9/11 Veterans  
2 Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to expand educational benefits  
3 to veterans of the war on terror. A veteran can receive a grant of  
4 up to the maximum tuition and fees charged to an in-state  
5 undergraduate student attending a public institution in his or her  
6 particular state. The benefit can be used at either a public or private  
7 institution; and

8 WHEREAS, Under California law, public institutions of higher  
9 education may not charge tuition to in-state residents. Because  
10 California’s public institutions of higher education charge no  
11 tuition, their fees are often considerably higher than the amount

1 of fees charged by private institutions that are permitted to levy a  
2 tuition cost. Based on the amount charged by public institutions  
3 to California's in-state residents, the United States Department of  
4 Veterans Affairs has determined the maximum tuition benefit to  
5 be zero dollars (\$0), while the maximum fee benefit can equal up  
6 to six thousand five hundred eighty-six dollars and fifty-four cents  
7 (\$6,586.54); and

8 WHEREAS, In California, veterans receive no tuition benefit  
9 and are often only allowed to use a fraction of their fee allotment  
10 at a private institution of higher education. For a student attending  
11 Stanford University, with an approximate tuition cost of  
12 thirty-seven thousand dollars (\$37,000) and fees of one thousand  
13 dollars (\$1,000), a California veteran would receive no benefit to  
14 defray the cost of tuition and would only be able to access one  
15 thousand dollars (\$1,000) in fee benefits to cover that portion of  
16 the cost; and

17 WHEREAS, The federal Veterans Educational Equity Act  
18 ensures California veterans are able to access the full benefit  
19 calculated under the law, rather than limiting their funding because  
20 of the state's zero tuition policy. The full benefit, tuition plus fees,  
21 can be used to offset the full cost of the tuition plus fees. Thus, the  
22 bill ensures California veterans can use up to the full six thousand  
23 five hundred eighty-six dollars and fifty-four cent (\$6,586.54)  
24 benefit calculated by the United States Department of Veterans  
25 Affairs, similar to the benefits enjoyed by other veterans in other  
26 states; and

27 WHEREAS, H.R. 2474 by California Congressman McKeon  
28 seeks to remedy the loophole that denies California veterans their  
29 educational benefits; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
31 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
32 respectfully requests the President and the Congress of the United  
33 States to pass H.R. 2474 that would restore funding for California  
34 veterans pursuing higher education; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
36 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
37 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority

- 1 Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from
- 2 California in the Congress of the United States.

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