

Statement for the Congressional Record

Madame Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Montgomery G.I. Bill Improvement Act of 2007 to eliminate the burdensome enrollment fee that prevents more of our young soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines from gaining a college education.

Today's military members are consummate professionals meeting the difficult challenges of their service with courage, skill and expertise. Obtaining a college education is critical to expanding their expertise to better serve the and the cause of freedom.

However, the current \$100 monthly enrollment fee required for participation in the Montgomery G.I. Bill could prevent young enlisted military families from furthering their education.

More than half of the enlisted men and women in our armed forces have family responsibilities that limit their income choices. Currently, only 3.9% of enlisted active-duty members of the armed forces have a

bachelor's degree, compared to 86.6% of the officers' corps.

The \$100 per month enrollment fee required for participation in the G.I. Bill sets up an unnecessary barrier to educational opportunities for enlisted military families trying to make ends meet and care for their children.

I have heard from current and former military members, public housing organizations, and groups advocating on behalf of military families that enlisted military members at pay grades E-5 and below would most benefit from the elimination of the \$1,200 annual enrollment fee.

[Click here](#) to view the full text of the bill.

[Click here](#) to read the Air Force Times article about this bill.

