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I believe one of the greatest ways to honor our military and veterans is to recognize and honor the value they bring to our society through their career and educational endeavors. In the Veterans to BSN track we do just that. We do this in several ways but most importantly the VBSN track honors their service by recognizing they have a working and practical knowledge of skills obtained while serving in the military. If they can demonstrate their knowledge to our faculty through testing and practical application (known as a Comprehensive Assessment Placement -CAP) they are exempt from having to take these courses if they so choose. Therefore our veterans are able to graduate more quickly and with less debt. (Please refer to the Veteran to BSN brochure)

The Veteran to BSN Track is a tremendous degree plan that I believe takes into consideration the holistic view of transition from military to higher education. However, there is always room for improvement and challenges to face. One challenge that is not only true for VBSN and TTUHSC students but all institutions that have regional campus and satellite locations is the Post 911 G.I Bill Basic Allowance for Housing or better known as the BAH rate. I am sure you all are familiar with this benefit but as an example currently the BAH rate for Lubbock, TX is \$1,097 per month and San Antonio, TX is \$1,811 per month. Being that Lubbock, TX is where the official TTUHSC institution is physically located our students attending the VBSN track in San Antonio, TX will receive the BAH rate in Lubbock. So, our students in San Antonio are receiving \$714 less per month where the cost of living is significantly higher.

I am thankful this Subcommittee addressed this inequity in the passage of H.R.3218, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017. Thank you for allowing veterans to receive MHA based on the location where the student attends the majority of their classes. This will help our students at TTUHSC's regional campuses. I understand the Subcommittee's concerns about some schools taking advantage of this provision. As the Subcommittee monitors the implementation of H.R. 3218, I would suggest the Subcommittee consider allowing students to receive MHA at the "site" where students do their clinical training as well where as many students receive their didactic training 100 percent online. Please know, we are thankful for the change made by H.R.3218.

Providing resources for military and veterans to transition into college and into the



important initiative. In closing I would like to quote one of our current VBSN students who was recently recognized for her assistance with Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.

“The situations in the military are uncontrolled field settings,” Grant said. “That training has helped me stay in the correct mindset while I work in more controlled environments. The best part of TTUHSC is that they have acknowledged all of my training in the Army. A lot of places say they are military-friendly, but TTUHSC really backs it up. They stand behind their military students. When they say it, they mean it.”