

Top Ten Reasons to Include USPHS Officers in GI Bill Transferability

- #10.** Existing law and statute regarding the status of the USPHS Commissioned Corps is confusing and contradictory. This is no reason to deny the benefits of the new GI Bill to this one group of uniformed service members whose role in defending the Nation against public health threats to national security is every bit as important as that of any other uniformed service member.
- # 9.** Excluding USPHS and NOAA officers from transferability is counter-productive. It drives a wedge between uniformed services. It deters recruitment and retention at a time when the USPHS Commissioned Corps is taking on increasingly demanding responsibilities at home and abroad to protect our public health security – the most fundamental component of national security.
- # 8.** USPHS officers are defined as veterans [42 USC §213(d) and 38 USC §101(21)(B)]. As veterans, they have been eligible for every GI bill program for more than 60 years.
- # 7.** HHS has identified thousands of unfilled requirements for USPHS officers in IHS, FDA, CDC, BOP, DHS, and other agencies. Public health trained physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and dentists are in particular demand.