

**Joint Hearing of the Senate and House Committees  
Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness  
FY 2009/10 Budget Proposal, Scotland School for Veterans' Children  
March 11, 2009**

**Angelo Adams, 1996 Scotland School Alumni**

To Whom This May Concern:

My name is Angelo Adams and I am a 1996 graduate of **Scotland School for Veterans' Children**, a 2001 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, and a 2008 graduate of the University of Michigan-Ross School of Business. I am very disheartened to hear of the recent news that Governor Rendell plans to close Scotland School at the end of the year. I am a successful businessman today because of the values that SSVV instilled in me.

I have served five years in the US Army including one tour in Iraq with the 82D Airborne Division. With two kids of my own, I have always dreamed of sending them Scotland. I cannot believe that the Governor plans to get rid of SSVV when we need it most. There are 2 Brigades of PA National Guardsmen/women deployed right now. Within those units, there are at least 7 Scotland graduates. In a time that suicide rates among soldiers who deploy are the highest ever. Domestic violence for soldiers is also at an all time high. The Governor wants to close a school that provides an excellent and safe learning environment for the Veterans' kids. I understand that the State must have a balanced budget; however, the sacrifice should be a shared one. We should not ask our soldiers to fight for freedom while at the same time take away a benefit that provides a safe, secure, and educational environment to the soldiers' children.

Scotland is utopia for many of the inner city students who attend. Just like many, I came to Scotland with test scores that were subpar. But with the help of my teachers and the dedication for continued excellence, I was able to quickly gain understanding and better my academics. Instead of singling out SSVV for being the only school of its kind, we should be using it as a model for creating other schools across the state and country.

In closing, I would only point to the success of the many graduates of Scotland throughout its history. On average 80% of the students matriculate to Universities. SSVV touts graduates of West Point, UPenn, Columbia, Drexel, Temple, Shippensburg, Millersville, Indiana, West Chester; I could go on and on. The majority, if not the totality, are first generation college graduates, who garnered their future at Scotland. This is not to dismiss the successful cosmetologists, barbers, electricians, carpenters, as well as, businessmen and women and dutiful mothers and fathers. I know firsthand that they would tell you that if not for Scotland, they would not be the success they are today.

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