August 13, 2019

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Armed Services Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Inhofe and Smith, and Ranking Members Reed and Thornberry:

I write to you today on behalf of the members of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) which represents the interests and concerns of well over one million members of the Army and Air National Guard, their family members, National Guard retirees, and survivors. Founded in 1972, EANGUS is dedicated to the principles of providing an adequate national defense and promoting the status, welfare, and professionalism of the men and women of the Army and Air National Guard by supporting legislation that provides adequate staffing, pay, benefits, entitlements, equipment, and installations for the National Guard. As your staffs informally convene to address conference provisions in the Senate- and House-passed Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Acts, I would like to provide our prospective.

EANGUS members support House Section 627, Consideration of Service on Active Duty to Reduce Age of Eligibility for Retired Pay for Non-Regular Service. This section would amend section 12731(f)(2)(B)(i) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize credit for a service member who as a member of the Ready Reserve serves on Active Duty or performs Active service under section 12304(b) of title 10, United States Code. The eligibility age will be reduced below 60 years of age by 3 months for each aggregate of 90 days on which such person serves on such Active Duty or performs such Active service in any fiscal year after January 28, 2008, or in any two consecutive fiscal years after September 30, 2014.

The EANGUS membership also supports House Section 703, Modification of Eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select for Certain Members of the Selected Reserve. This section would amend section 1076d of title 10, United States Code, by removing the restriction of Federal employees who are National Guard or Reserve Component service members from purchasing TRICARE Reserve Select beginning in the year 2030.
We are supportive of Senate Section 1422, Expansion of Eligibility for Residence at the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Among other things, Section 1422 amends section 1512(a) of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (24 U.S.C. 412(a)) and expands eligibility to retired Reserve Component Servicemembers. Our organization understands the importance of the program, and the membership is excited to be included in the participation pool.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring these provisions to your attention. Should you have any questions, please contact Scott Bousum, Legislative Director, EANGUS at scott.bousum@eangus.org. Thank you and your staff for your continued support of our Servicemembers, civilians, veterans, and military families.

Respectfully,

SGM Frank Yoakum, U.S. Army (Retired)
Executive Director