



## ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

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### **National Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity**

**The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), representing over 440,000 Guardsmen across the 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia urges Congress to pass legislation to establish G.I. Bill parity for the National Guard and all other reserve components.**

Education continues to be a major incentive for joining the military and continuing to serve. During the 118th Congress, H.R.7543 and S.3873, both titled “Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2024”, were introduced by Rep. Mike Levin and Sen. Jerry Moran respectively, to equalize military duty status eligibility for Post 9/11 GI Bill educational benefits. A similar bill passed in the House during the 117th Congress but did not receive a vote in the Senate.

This legislation would count every day in uniform – weekend drills, annual training, and state and federal active duty – towards Post 9/11 GI Bill eligibility. Currently, only federal active duty is counted and is typically only available while deployed.

The need for parity has been highlighted by the unprecedented use of the National Guard and other reserve components. Since the tragedy of September 11th, National Guard service members have been activated over 12 million times, not including domestic missions to provide pandemic relief, natural disaster response, border security, and protecting the U.S. Capitol. Many of these missions are ongoing, with no clear end in sight.

Unlike active duty service, a day in the National Guard or reserve components does not always count as a day of service for benefits. Regular weekend training days, annual training, and state level domestic activations do not count toward benefits. As wars wind down, federal deployments abroad have decreased, making it more difficult for reserve component service members to earn federal benefits, such as the Post 9/11 GI Bill, despite frequent domestic missions.

It is crucial to ensure that reserve component service members can earn the same benefit under the Post 9/11 GI Bill as their active duty counterparts. We urge the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress to reintroduce this legislation and accelerate its’ passage, thus marking the most impactful change to the Post 9-11 GI Bill for the reserve components since the program’s inception.

For more information regarding this issue or any other issues concerning the National Guard, contact the EANGUS legislative team at [legislative@eangus.org](mailto:legislative@eangus.org).