June 1, 2017

The Honorable Steven Palazzo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2349 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tim Walz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Palazzo and Representative Walz:

As officers of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), we call upon the 115th Congress and the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army in the strongest possible way to stop the investigation of Army National Guard (ARNG) members by Army Criminal Investigation Division agents relative to the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP).

G-RAP had its impetus in 2005 when the Army National Guard was facing a manpower shortage and needed thousands of recruits. Traditional ARNG members, employed as civilian subcontractors, were asked to refer prospects to full-time recruiters, and received a payment for that referral. The government contractor put in place controls in order to ascertain the veracity of referrals and to effect payment to the recruiting assistant. The recruiting assistant acted as a subcontractor, and did not make referrals in any military duty status.

The program was shut down in 2012. While we acknowledge that some fraud occurred, we believe those who acted fraudulently have been identified, duly prosecuted, and punished. Furthermore, we believe those still under investigation are unfairly being targeted and that the result of the investigation has ruined lives, careers, marriages, and credit; indeed, some have opted for suicide to end the relentless harassment. The harassment must stop and the Department of Defense (DOD) should provide restitution to all innocent ARNG members. As Co-Chairs of the House Guard and Reserve Components Caucus, please work with DOD and with our association staff to end this madness.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

CMSgt (Ret) John Harris, President

1SG (Ret) Brad Howell, Vice-President