



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

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March 2, 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  
3313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Palazzo and Representative Walz:

On behalf of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) which represents the interests of over 400,000 enlisted men and women of the Army and Air National Guard, we are pleased to offer our support for, "The Reserve Component Benefits Parity Act."

Of particular concern to our membership is the disparity in benefits currently not attributed to Guard and Reserve Servicemembers deploying under 10 U.S.C. §12304b status. Since its creation in 2012, to give Combatant Commanders authority to utilize the Reserve Component, §12304b has been a mechanism used at increasing man hour rates per year. While our constituency wants to serve in any capacity (state or federal), we believe that they should be afforded benefits such as: tuition assistance, early retirement credit, transitional healthcare access, and Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits currently not funded under 10 U.S.C. §12304b status. Furthermore, we feel it appropriate to retroactively extend retirement credit and education benefits to Servicemember that recently deployed under 10 U.S.C. §12304b status, and who failed to receive these earned benefits.

EANGUS thanks you for introducing "The Reserve Component Benefits Parity Act" to address our concerns highlighted above. We stand ready to work with you and your staff to ensure the passage of this important piece of legislation during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Yoakum".

Sgt Maj Frank Yoakum, U.S. Army (retired)  
Executive Director