



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

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1 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 880 • Washington, D.C. 20001-1401 • 800-234-EANG (3264) • Fax (703) 519-3849

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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

Dear Representative Walz,

On behalf of the members of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. (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, we are pleased to offer our support for The Reserve Component Employer Incentive, Compensation, and Relief Act of 2018. 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.

The Combat Readiness of our Military relies on the Citizen Soldiers who work both on “Main Street” and on the battlefield. As much as our Armed Forces rely on Guardsmen’s tireless efforts abroad, so do civilian employers back home. The employers who hire Guardsmen do it proudly out of a sense of patriotism, valuing the unique work ethic and skill-sets Citizen Soldiers are known to possess. Over the last few years, the strategic mission of both the National Guard and Reserves has changed to an “Operational Reserve,” meaning that the Guard and Reserves are now being activated and deployed far more regularly than was traditionally seen before. This change has put a strain on the very civilian employers that make the National Guard and Reserves possible.

With the increased operational tempo of our National Guard and Reserve forces, civilian employers are beginning to think twice before hiring Servicemembers. To assuage the reservations of employers, tax credits have been offered to balance the hidden costs of hiring of Guardsmen. However, these tax credits targeted too small a population, and monetarily were not enough to incentivize employers to hire Troops.

The Reserve Component Employer Incentive, Compensation, and Relief Act of 2018 will incentivize employers by providing a tax credit that will more significantly offset the loss of productivity of a deployed Servicemember. This new legislation will apply to all employers who employ an actively serving member of either of the Reserve Components.

EANGUS thanks you for your concern for the Servicemembers and Veterans of the National Guard, and for supporting the true patriots who employ our Heroes. Frank Yoakum, Executive Director of EANGUS,

points out, "As part of the triad of support of our National Guard members who are called to military duty as Soldiers and Airmen, our employers play a vital role in the security of this nation. This bill recognizes that role by ensuring our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen retain their jobs as they answer the call to defend America." We look forward to working with you to advance this bill, and we welcome the opportunity to assist your offices with all legislative issues that impact our nation's Servicemembers and Veterans.



Frank Yoakum  
Sergeant Major  
U.S. Army (Retired)  
Executive Director  
EANGUS