



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

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

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Washington, D.C. - Today, The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is proud to be joined by Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Jon Tester (D-MT) in the fight to protect Veterans' benefits. Senators Blumenthal, Brown and Tester heard the concerns of EANGUS members and are introducing the Post-9/11 GI Bill Transferability Entitlement Act (TEA Act). This legislation would make the Post-9/11 GI Bill an earned benefit and ensure that all Servicemembers who have completed 10 years of service in the Armed Forces are eligible to transfer their benefits to dependents at any time – both while serving on active duty and as a veteran.

Daniel Elkins, Legislative Director with EANGUS, explained that, “the men and women that protect our way of life often do not come from generational wealth, and they have earned the right to pass on what they have earned to their family.”

“The Department of Defense’s confusing new policy moved the goalpost for transfer eligibility, breaking our promise to military families. Disqualifying servicemembers with more than sixteen years of military services penalizes the men and women who have served this country in uniform for the greatest length of time. This policy change is fundamentally illogical and unfair, and exacerbates existing inequities in the transfer of education benefits – it should be remedied immediately by passing our bill,” Blumenthal said.

“It’s our duty to ensure that when servicemembers, who sacrifice for our nation, return home, they and their families can receive the education and training they’ve earned,” Brown said.

“The law should make it easier, not harder, for servicemembers to use the benefits they’ve earned in a way that makes the most sense for them and their families,” said Tester, Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee. “Our bill ensures that the men and women in uniform—who served our nation for years— are able to transfer their G.I. Bill education benefits to their loved ones without unnecessary hurdles. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, so we can do right by our nation’s veterans.”

EANGUS applauds the efforts of the Senators and urges every member on Capitol Hill who cares for Veterans and their families to follow their lead in standing up for America’s Heroes and passing the TEA Act without delay.

EANGUS works to advance the interests of over a million Soldiers, Airmen, their families, retirees, and survivors. Reflecting the spirit of America in over 3,000 communities across the nation, the men and women of the National Guard serve to defend their nation from threats abroad as well as to respond to natural and manmade disasters in their home state.

Media Contact:
Stephen Patterson
Steve@eangus.org