



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

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December 19, 2019

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
U.S. House of Representatives
212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Waltz
U.S. House of Representatives
216 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger
U.S. House of Representatives
2245 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jason Crow
U.S. House of Representatives
1229 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gil Cisneros
U.S. House of Representatives
431 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Panetta, Waltz, Kinzinger, Crow and Cisneros,

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 Post-9/11 GI Bill Transferability Entitlement Act (TEA Act)*. 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 Department of Defense's recently proposed changes to the transferability of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits has confused and frustrated Servicemembers who wish to transfer this education benefits to their families. Unfortunately, many servicemembers and veterans are unable to transfer their education benefits due to current DoD policy, financially distressing military families who believed in the promise of The Post-9/11 GI Bill. The TEA Act will ensure that our nation's servicemembers and veterans are able to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to their families. Additionally, EANGUS applauds the spirit of this legislation, which aims to ensure that education benefits are treated an "entitlement" that is earned through service. EANGUS believes that recognizing the Post 9/11 GI Bill as an earned entitlement properly honors the sacrifices the men and women of the Armed Forces make every day.

Daniel Elkins, Legislative Director with EANGUS, explained that, "every servicemember who has earned the Post-9/11 GI Bill, regardless of duty status, earned it at a great cost to themselves and their families. We need to honor this sacrifice and ensure that our Veterans can use the benefits they earned in the way that is best for them and their family."

On behalf of our membership, The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States thanks you for your service and advocacy for our nation's Servicemembers and Veterans. We look forward to working with you and your staff to advance this important piece of legislation.



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