



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

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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 Representatives Jimmy Panetta, Michael Waltz, Gil Cisneros, Adam Kinzinger, and Jason Crow in our work to protect Veterans' benefits. These members of Congress heard the concerns of EANGUS members and have introduced the Post-9/11 GI Bill Transferability Entitlement Act (TEA Act). This legislation will recognize the Post-9/11 GI Bill as an entitlement that is earned by the sacrifices that servicemembers make every day. EANGUS believes that the GI Bill is not merely a "retention tool," but rather a recognition and honoring of everything our Veterans have done for our country. The TEA act will ensure 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, "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."

"By requiring additional years of military service to transfer educational benefits to dependents, the administration is breaking our commitment to military families and creating confusion among service members. My bill will ensure that those who served in the Armed Forces and their families can receive the education and training they have earned and were promised," said Congressman Panetta.

"It is only fair for all of our servicemembers to have the option to transfer the unused education benefits which they have earned to their loved ones who have sacrificed so much." Congressman Waltz said. "This is not just a family-financial issue but a strategic issue for our volunteer military which affects recruitment and retention – and this legislation assures we'll continue to have the finest fighting force in the world."

"Congress has a responsibility to fulfill the promises it has made to our men and women in uniform. As a Navy Veteran, I'm disappointed that the Department of Defense's policy makes it harder for our servicemembers – who have sacrificed so much for our country – to transfer their education benefits to their family. Today, I'm joining my colleagues in correcting this injustice and ensuring every veteran and servicemember and their family get the benefits they've earned," said Congressman Cisneros.

EANGUS applauds the efforts of the Congressmen as well as Senators Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, and Jon Tester who introduced the Senate version of the bill. EANGUS 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.

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