



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

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February 13, 2020

The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
311 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20002

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
357 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Senator Tester and Senator Blackburn,

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 *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2020*. 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.

For years, members of the National Guards have been disadvantaged and overlooked in the accumulation of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and their Transfer of Education Benefits while performing the same or similar service as their Active Duty and Reserve Component counterparts. Before October 2016, Army Human Resource Command (AHRC) interpreted Title 38 U.S.C. § 3301(1)(B) to include only mobilization, contingency, Active Duty Operation Support for Army Component, and Contingency Operations for Active Duty Operation Support for Army Component as qualifying service for Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits (PGIB) and Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB). This interpretation failed to report qualifying service of members of the National Guard and Reserve Components for PGIB and TEB eligibility.

Beginning October 1, 2016, AHRC expanded their interpretation of title 10 USC §12301(d) to include Reservists who conduct Active Duty Training, Active Duty Special Work, and Active Duty Operational Support-Reserve Component performed after September 10, 2001 as qualifying service for PGIB and TEB eligibility. However, members of the National Guard were not included within the scope of this interpretation, and they have remained disadvantaged and overlooked.

The *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2020* is a critical piece of legislation that will recognize the service of members of the National Guard, and ensure that they and their families have equal opportunity to receive an education for their service and sacrifice. 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