



## 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 join Senator Blackburn, Senator Tester, Representative Levin, Representative Palazzo, and Representative Ryan in introducing *The Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2020*. For years, members of the National Guard 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's interpretation of U.S. Code excluded the National Guard and Reserve Component from qualifying for Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits (PGIB) and Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) for the same or similar service that qualified their peers in Active Duty. After October 2016, AHRC reinterpreted policy to include members of the Reserve Component, but members of the National Guard remained disadvantaged and overlooked in their service.

Daniel Elkins, Legislative Director with EANGUS, explained that, "The men and women of the National Guard work tirelessly alongside their active-duty and reservist counterparts, often accomplishing the exact same mission but receiving very different benefits. *The Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2020* will help ensure fair and equal treatment to all servicemembers, regardless of duty status."

"If members of the Guard and Reserve do similar jobs and face similar risks as other servicemembers, then they deserve the same benefits," said Rep. Levin. "This commonsense legislation will finally bring basic fairness for servicemembers who spend months away from family and risk their lives for our country, but have not received the benefits they deserve. I'm proud to introduce this bill with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and look forward to advancing it in the House."

"Our men and women serving in the National Guard and Reserves are trained to be ready to respond at a moment's notice and are oftentimes performing the same duties as their active-duty counterparts without receiving equal benefits," said Rep. Palazzo. "I firmly believe that these individuals carrying out equally demanding and risky responsibilities should be appropriately compensated. This is about fairness and ensuring our Guardsmen and Reservists get the benefits they earned."

EANGUS applauds the efforts of Senator Blackburn, Senator Tester, Representative Levin, Representative Palazzo, and Representative Ryan to ensure that members of the National Guard are eligible for the benefits they deserve. EANGUS urges every member on Capitol Hill to stand with the members of the National Guard and pass the vital bipartisan, bicameral *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2020* 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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