



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

May 27, 2020

The Honorable Harley Rouda
U.S. House of Representatives
2300 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
U.S. House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable Mark Green
U.S. House of Representatives
533 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Rouda, Representative Cisneros, Representative Foxx and Representative Green,

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 *Protecting Our Servicemembers Care 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.

When members of the National Guard are activated on federal orders, their active duty status should seamlessly transition their medical coverage from TRICARE Reserve Select to TRICARE Prime. However, multiple instances of failed coverage have happened repeatedly to members of the National Guard while deployed, resulting in the loss of health care for extended periods of time. It is our understanding that the cause has still not been identified at the state or federal level. Therefore, members of the National Guard and their families will continue to lose TRICARE coverage when activated for active duty.

“This is unacceptable,” stated EANGUS Executive Director Frank Yoakum. “When deploying to serve our country, members of the National Guard should not have to worry about their families’ losing health care, their children missing medications, their spouses missing maternity appointments, or fighting a bureaucracy from a battlefield half a world away. These systemic lapses in TRICARE coverage are a matter not only of national security, but are an insult to the brave men and women and their families who sacrifice so much in their service to us all.”

On behalf of our membership, The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, thanks you all 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Yoakum", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SGM Frank Yoakum, U.S. Army (Retired)
Executive Director