

May 10, 2019

The Honorable Anthony Brindisi  
US House of Representatives  
329 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Meadows  
US House of Representatives  
2160 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representatives Brindisi and Meadows,

On behalf of the members of the Veterans Education Project (VEP), 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 H.R. 2629, the *CARE for Reservists Act*.

Since the attack on September 11<sup>th</sup> the National Guard has been on more than 850,000 deployments: the most in an 18-year time span in our country's history. In addition to missions abroad, the Guard have also been called upon for crises at home, responding to over 200 emergencies. Yet despite the increased use there has not been an increase in support.

Over the last five years, 425 Servicemembers were lost to suicide in the Army National Guard alone, and without proper support these numbers are expected to climb. Daniel Elkins, the Executive Director for VEP said, "We owe anyone who has chosen to serve our country, regardless of duty status, our full support." The *CARE for Reservists Act* recognizes and addresses this need, and provides mental health care to the National Guard and Reserve components.

On behalf of our membership, the Veterans Education Project 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 the *CARE for Reservists Act*.