

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Washington, D.C.** - Today, the Veterans Education Project (VEP) is proud to support *The CARE for Reservists Act of 2019*. Suicide is an epidemic plaguing the National Guard; 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.”

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. *The CARE for Reservists Act of 2019* aims to fix that by expanding eligibility for mental health treatment for all members of the National Guard.

The Veterans Education Project applauds Senator Tester for introducing this vital Bill. We are proud that through the work of our members in Montana and the National Office in DC that we were able to help bring this important issue to light. VEP calls upon the rest of the Senate to follow Senator Tester’s lead to provide care and support for all Veterans, both active and reserve. VEP 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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