

October 8th, 2018

The Honorable Tim Walz
U.S. House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Walz,

On behalf of the constituents of the Veterans Education Project , which represents the interests and concerns of Student Veterans and their family members, we are pleased to offer our support for The Reserve Component Employer Incentive, Compensation, and Relief Act of 2018.

The Combat Readiness of our Military relies on the Citizen Soldiers who work both on “Main Street” and on the battlefield. As much as our Armed Forces rely on Guardsmen’s tireless efforts abroad, so do civilian employers back home. The employers who hire Guardsmen do it proudly out of a sense of patriotism, valuing the unique work ethic and skill-sets Citizen Soldiers are known to possess. Over the last few years, the strategic mission of both the National Guard and Reserves has changed to an “Operational Reserve,” meaning that the Guard and Reserves are now being activated and deployed far more regularly than was traditionally seen before. This change has put a strain on the very civilian employers that make the National Guard and Reserves possible.

With the increased operational tempo of our National Guard and Reserve forces, civilian employers are beginning to think twice before hiring Servicemembers. To assuage the reservations of employers, tax credits have been offered to balance the hidden costs of hiring of Guardsmen. However, these tax credits targeted too small a population, and monetarily were not enough to incentivize employers to hire Troops.

The Reserve Component Employer Incentive, Compensation, and Relief Act of 2018 will incentivize employers by providing a tax credit that will more significantly offset the loss of productivity of a deployed Servicemember. This new legislation will apply to all employers who employ an actively serving member of either of the Reserve Components.

VEP thanks you for your concern for the Servicemembers and Veterans of reserve component, and for supporting the true patriots who employ our Heroes. We look forward to working with you to advance this bill, and we welcome the opportunity to assist your offices with all legislative issues that impact our nation’s Servicemembers and Veterans.



Daniel Elkins
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Army National Guard
Executive Director
Veterans Education Project