



MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION

7830 110th Street South Cottage Grove, Minnesota 55016

The Honorable Tim Walz
U.S. House of Representatives
3313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Walz:

On behalf of the Minnesota National Guard Enlisted Association (MNGEA) we are pleased to offer our support for, "The Reserve Component Benefits Parity Act. MNGEA represents the interests of over 13,000 enlisted men and women of the Army and Air National Guard, "

Our membership is very concerned about the disparity in benefits received by Guard and Reserve Service members deploying under 10 U.S.C. §12304b status. Since its creation in 2012 to give Combatant Commanders authority to utilize the Reserve Component, §12304b has been a mechanism used at increasing man hour rates per year.

While our constituency is happy to serve in any capacity (state or federal), we believe that we should be afforded benefits such as: tuition assistance, early retirement credit, transitional healthcare access, and Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits currently not funded under 10 U.S.C. §12304b status. Furthermore, we feel it appropriate to retroactively extend retirement credit and education benefits to Service members who recently deployed under 10 U.S.C. §12304b status, and who failed to receive these earned benefits. Multiple Minnesota Army and Air Guard units have been deployed under 10 U.S.C. §12304b status.

MNGEA thanks you for introducing "The Reserve Component Benefits Parity Act". We stand ready to work with you and your staff to ensure the passage of this important piece of legislation during the 115th Congress.

Sincerely,

Chief Ray Kennedy, U.S. Air Force (retired)
President