



June 10, 2020

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Takano
Chairman, Veterans' Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Philip Roe
Ranking Member, Veterans' Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Smith and Takano, Ranking Members Thornberry and Roe:

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million current and former servicemembers, veterans, their families, and survivors would like to express our support for H.R. 6957, National Guard 5 COVID-19 Earned Benefits Guarantee Act that directs the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to treat a period of full-time National Guard duty as not shorter than 90 days when performed in response to the COVID-19 national emergency proclamation dated March 13, 2020.

Although we support H.R. 6957, the TMC believes it is missing a key population of the currently activated reserve force. The TMC urges you to amend H.R. 6957 to include all activated Reserve and National Guard servicemembers in support COVID-19.

More than 54,000 men and women in the Reserve and the National Guard, together called the Reserve Components, have been called to action in response to the pandemic. While the National Guard has been activated to serve in all 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia, reservists from across the country have also been activated.

Air Force Reservists have helped civilian medical staff in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Army Reservists, deployed virtually on a moment's notice, left their families and jobs and are pitching in on the Northeastern Seaboard as well as in the Midwest. Reservists from the Navy and the Army served aboard the hospital ship USNS Comfort, which deployed to New York.

We would greatly appreciate your attention to this matter, and we are grateful for all the hard work Congress has endured during these unprecedented times. We stand ready to work with Congress to ensure servicemembers and their families are protected as they remain DoD's most important asset. Please consider this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Jack Du Teil
President
The Military Coalition

See attached list of organizations

Air Force Association (AFA)
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)
Association of the US Army (AUSA)
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
Chief Warrant & Warrant Officers Association, USCG (CWOAUSCG)
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service (COA)
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. (GSW)
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV)
Marine Corps League (MCL)
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Military Chaplains Association (MCA)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
US Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
VetsFirst
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)