

1 March 2016

The Honorable Chris Gibson
House of Representatives
1708 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gibson:

The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) supports your bill H.R. 4534, “Protecting Our Security Through Utilizing Right-Sized End-Strength Act of 2016” or the “POSTURE Act.” This bill recognizes the vital contributions of the Reserve Components and the need to ensure they have the right Fiscal Year 2016 end strength authorized.

Since 9/11, more than 900,000 Reserve Component members have been activated to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and other contingencies. Despite increased use of the Guard and Reserve, the Congressional Research Service, identified end strength reductions between FY2001 and FY2015.

“Between FY2001 and FY2015, the largest shifts in authorized end strength have occurred in the Navy Reserve (-31,600 or -35.5%), Air Force Reserve (-7,258 or -9.8%), and Coast Guard Reserve (-1,000 or -12.5%). A smaller change occurred in the Air National Guard (-3,022 or -2.8%) and Army Reserve (-3,300 or -1.6%), while the authorized end strength for the Army National Guard (-326 or -0.1%) and the Marine Corps Reserve (-358 or -0.9%) have been largely unchanged during this period. (*FY2016 National Defense Authorization Act: Selected Military Personnel Issues, R44120*).”

As stated in the bill, passing this legislation will ensure Guard and Reserve members are available, “...to deter threats, shape the international security environment, respond to emergent situations and crises, and, if necessary, to fight and win the Nation’s war, ...”

ROA has a membership of 50,000, which represents all the uniformed services of the United States who would be favorably affected by your bill. Thank you for your efforts on this issue, and past support to the military. Please have your staff call Susan Lukas, ROA's legislative director, at 202-646-7713 or slukas@roa.org, for any assistance.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey E. Phillips
Executive Director