

17 May 2016

The Honorable Ken Calvert
House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Calvert:

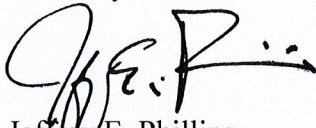
The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) supports your bill H.R. 4941, to provide a monthly stipend for Guard and Reserve members who use the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill on a prorated basis when performing certain active duty.

As the active duty has drawn down, the services turn to the Guard and Reserve to help meet operational requirements. They do so by putting the Reserve Component service member on orders for an "as needed basis" which means they will not always be on full month increment orders. As stated by Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, this provides a cost effective way to meet operational requirements: *"Today's Army Reserve is the most battle-tested and experienced in our Nation's history. Whether performing combat, contingency and security cooperation missions abroad, or saving lives and protecting property at home, the Army Reserve will continue to offer versatile, available and effective capabilities to the Army and the Nation at reduced cost to the American taxpayer."*

The advantage of using the Guard and Reserve should not entail a disadvantage to the service member with those who are students losing their educational assistance monthly housing allowance when they perform operational support. Your bill solves this problem by introducing a pro-rated housing allowance as the solution to eliminate financial hardships and encourage volunteerism.

ROA has a membership of more than 50,000, which represents over 800,000 Guard and Reserve uniformed service members. Thank you for your efforts on this issue and the bipartisan support your bill has received. Please have your staff call Susan Lukas, ROA's legislative director, at 202-646-7713 or slukas@roa.org, for any further assistance we can provide.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey E. Phillips
Executive Director