



May 12, 2016

The Honorable Charles Boustany  
 Chairman  
 Tax Policy Subcommittee  
 Committee on Ways and Means  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
 Ranking Member  
 Tax Policy Subcommittee  
 Committee on Ways and Means  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Boustany and Ranking Member Neal:

The associations below write in support of H.R. 4381, Servicemember Retirement Improvement Act, sponsored by Representative Johnson. This bill would give Reserve Component servicemembers the opportunity to fully participate in the military 401K part of the new blended retirement without compromising both their civilian and military retirement plans.

When not in military service many Guard and Reserve members are working in civilian jobs that have 401k retirement programs. Because of contribution limits set by the IRS, not all of them would be able to fully participate in the new blended retirement without reducing their civilian employment retirement options. Additionally, they could miss out on the opportunity to qualify for government matching contributions

It is important to remember the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, which proposed a blended retirement entitlement, did not intend for Guard and Reserve members to lose benefits. We believe the bill will encourage Guard, and Reserve members to contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), which is their military 401K. Additionally, the Department of Defense should see a positive impact to recruiting and retention.

We strongly urge Congress to quickly pass H.R. 4381 so this aspect of TSP can be included in the financial education program being developed by the Department of Defense for when the blended retirement is implemented. On behalf of over 800,000 participating members, we respectfully request the Ways and Means Committee favorably consider the Servicemember Retirement Improvement Act.

Sincerely,

Association of the United States Army  
 Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
 Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States  
 Marine Corps Reserve Association  
 Military Officers Association of America  
 National Guard Association of the US  
 Reserve Officers Association  
 The Retired Enlisted Association  
 United States Army Warrant Officers Association