

19 May 2015

The Honorable Martha McSally  
House of Representatives  
1029 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman McSally:

The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) supports the bill you sponsored, titled the *Veterans' Entry to Apprenticeship Act*. This bill would give Reserve Component veterans the opportunity to attend pre-apprenticeship programs as part of approved training under Department of Defense education benefits.

Since 9/11, over 900,000 Reserve Component members have been activated to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn and other contingencies, thereby earning the Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefit. Additionally, over 80,000 Guard and Reserve are using education benefits under other Reserve Component education programs. It is important we remove barriers to their opportunity to pursue education.

Your bill will help Guard and Reserve members qualify for apprenticeship programs with Helmets to Hardhats, Veterans in Piping, and The Painters and Allied Trades Veterans Program for skilled training and career opportunities.

ROA has a membership of over 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 e-mail at [slukas@roa.org](mailto:slukas@roa.org) if we can provide any assistance in the future.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey B. Phillips  
Executive Director