



May 10, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

As you consider changes to the tax code in the 115th Congress, the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) urge you to consider revisions in support of the members of the National Guard and Reserve. Reserve Component (RC) servicemembers are adversely impacted by some provisions in the tax code and we ask Congress to support the following as part of tax reform or through stand-alone legislation.

Beginning in January 2018, servicemembers will be limited from making full contributions to their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) and civilian retirement plans. We support amending the Title 26 USC to allow RC servicemembers to make the full \$18,000 allowable contributions to their TSP and civilian employment retirement accounts. Our organizations have worked closely with your colleague Senator Cornyn on S. 492, the *Servicemember Retirement Improvement Act*, to address this issue.

Currently, RC Servicemembers must travel 100 miles before they are able to take tax deductions for expenses incurred while performing services related to Guard or Reserve duties. We support legislation to decrease the distance for the above-the-line deduction for travel expenses from 100 miles to 50 miles. S. 697, the *Tax Relief for Guard and Reserve Training Act*, was introduced by your colleague Senator Daines to address this issue.

Finally, we support updating IRS Revenue Procedure 2016-47 to allow servicemembers on military deployment to qualify for a waiver of the 60-day rollover requirement and establishing a tax credit for employers who hire RC servicemembers in high-demand specialties, such as cybersecurity, counterdrug, aircraft pilots, and security personnel.

NGAUS and EANGUS appreciate the opportunity to bring these concerns to your attention and we look forward to working with you on behalf of the National Guard and Reserve. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact Mike Hadley, NGAUS Legislative Director, and Scott Bousum, EANGUS Legislative Director. Thank you for your continued support of our servicemembers, civilians, veterans, and military families.

Sincerely,

J. Roy Robinson  
Brigadier General (Ret)  
President, NGAUS

Frank Yoakum  
Sergeant Major (Ret)  
Executive Director, EANGUS