

June 1, 2023

The Honorable Bill Johnson
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dean Phillips
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Johnson and Phillips:

On behalf of the Reserve Organization of America, the only national military organization that solely and exclusively supports the Reserve and National Guard, thank you for your leadership in Congress and sponsorship of H.R.3668, the *TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act*.

Public Law No. 110-81, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008*, reduced the retirement age for certain eligible reserve component servicemembers from age 60 to no less than 50. This was designed to recognize the increased reliance on the reserve components and only includes certain active-duty orders on or after January 29, 2008.


While this facilitates retirement for these “gray area” retirees before age 60, it does not provide access to the same subsidized healthcare benefit(s) offered to all other military retirees. Rather, these patriots are only eligible to enroll in the TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) program, which, like TRICARE Young Adult, requires enrollees to cover 100 percent of the cost of care.

As a comparison, TRR is about 2,000 percent more expensive than TRICARE Prime and close to 4,000 percent more than TRICARE Select (for both the member and the member and their family). These healthcare costs are unaffordable for too many of these retirees, who earned the right to receive the same healthcare benefit(s) as their brothers and sisters in arms.

Achieving equity between components in the military health system is ROA’s leading legislative priority for the 118th Congress. By eliminating this component-centric, congressionally created barrier to healthcare, H.R.3668, the *TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act*, passes our litmus test for support with “flying colors.”

Once again, thank you. ROA looks forward to working with you and your staff on other areas of mutual interest soon.

Respectfully,


Jeffrey E. Phillips
Executive Director
Maj. Gen. (Ret.), U.S. Army

