

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Tim Walz
United States House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Walz:

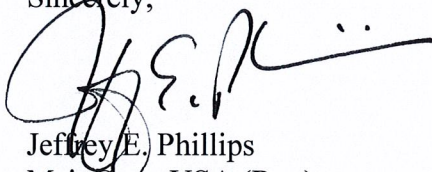
The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) supports your bill H.R. 1384 *Reserve Components Benefits Parity Act* to ensure that a Guard or Reserve member who performs active duty under sections 12304a and 12304b of title 10, United States Code, receives the same benefits as when on other operational orders.

It is without fault that these sections of law passed without any corresponding benefits several years ago, but now is the time to rectify that situation. It is important for servicemembers to know they will have certain programs and protections available when they support operational missions.

For example, currently Reserve Component members will not receive pre- or post-health care benefits. This is important because they are serving in countries where they will be exposed to Zika and Ebola diseases. Because symptoms for these diseases can manifest after they get off of operational duty orders they need to have post-health care to be treated for an in the line of duty illness.

ROA has a membership of 50,000, representing 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 slukas@roa.org, for any assistance.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey E. Phillips
Maj. Gen., USA (Ret.)
Executive Director

