

March 31, 2017

The Honorable Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

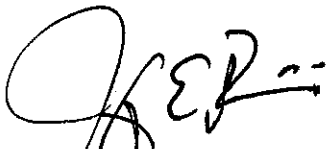
Dear Senator Ernst:

ROA supports your bill S.307, "Department of Defense Emergency Response Capabilities Database Enhancement Act of 2017" to include National Guard and Reserve Component cyber capabilities in the Department of Defense Emergency Response Capabilities Database.

Given the increasing cyber demands of the armed forces and rising threat of severe cyber attacks, it is imperative for the DoD to know all their available sources in the Total Force. The National Guard and Reserve possess critical cyber expertise due to their participation in the innovative IT private sector. To fully utilize this talent, the DoD must know where these personnel are located and what type of cyber capabilities they possess. S.307 provides a simple and effective fix to better track these capabilities within the Guard and Reserve and allow them to be fully deployed in case of a cyber emergency.

ROA has a membership of 50,000 and is the only national military association that exclusively supports all the uniformed reserve components of the United States. Thank you for your efforts on this issue, and your support of our veterans. Please have your staff call Susan Lukas, ROA's legislative director, at 202-646-7713 or e-mail at slukas@roa.org with any question or issue you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,



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

*Thank you for
your leadership!*