

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

The Reserve Officers Association of the United States supports to improve tax deductions for National Guard and Reserve servicemember incurring travel expenses.

Your bill also recognizes that National Guard and Reserve members are shouldering an increased cost in travel by reducing the tax deduction requirement from 100 to 50 miles. Besides bringing their tax deduction in line with other groups covered under the tax code it also helps to account for the increased travel they incur because of previous Base Realignment and Closure decisions.

In 2003, Public Law 108-121 established the 100-mile standard for a tax deduction. Afterwards, the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended a total of 182 closures or realignment recommendations. History has shown that BRAC implementations result in fewer installations which increases the distance Guard and Reserve members must travel to perform duty. The Department of Defense is calling for a new BRAC to close and realign installations.

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

Thank you for your leadership!