



## ***National Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity***

**The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), on behalf of nearly 450,000 Guardsmen across the 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia, urges the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress to legislate a G.I. Bill parity for the National Guard and Reservist.**

H.R. 1836 - Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act passed the House of Representatives on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, during the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. This bill aimed to eliminate most confusion over which types of duty allow the Guard and Reserve members to qualify for federal education benefits. H.R. 1836 enables all days in service, including weekend drills, annual training, and specific state active duties such as 502(f), to count toward the Post- 9/11 GI Bill.

Additionally, there was a Senate version of the National Guard GI Bill parity, S.2644 – the Guard, Reserve, and Active-Duty Department of Veterans Affairs Educational Assistance Parity (GRAD) Act.

The Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act and GRAD Act have come during an unprecedented time for the National Guard and Reserve Component. In the last 20 months, the National Guard and Reserves have activated more than 200,000 servicemembers for domestic missions to provide pandemic relief, combat wildfires, secure the U.S.-Mexico border, and protect the U.S. Capitol after January 6<sup>th</sup> protests. Many of these missions are ongoing, with no clear end in sight.

Unlike our Active Component peers, a day in the National Guard or Reserve does not always equal one day of service: regular weekend training days and annual training do not count toward benefits. As wars wind down, federal deployments abroad have decreased, making it much more difficult for Reserve Component Servicemembers to earn federal benefits, including the GI Bill, despite frequent rotations for missions at home and regularly scheduled training.

We must ensure these Servicemembers have the same benefit under Post 9/11 GI Bill as their active-duty counterparts. We are optimistic the House and Senate can come to a bipartisan agreement on these two pieces of legislation and provide what will be the most consequential change to the post 9-11 GI Bill, specifically for the Reserve Component, since the inception of the program.

For more information on this or any other issues concerning the National Guard, don't hesitate to contact EANGUS's legislative and military policy director, Kevin Hollinger, at (202) 670-1826 [kevin@eangus.org](mailto:kevin@eangus.org).