



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

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Tricare for All

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), on behalf of nearly 440,000 Guardsmen across the 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia, urges Congress to enact a bill to provide health care for all of the reserve component.

Healthcare coverage is one of the top issues with respect to the readiness and deployability of the National Guard. During the 117th Congress, HR 3512 and S 5142, both titled “Healthcare for our Troops”, were introduced to provide Tricare for all members of the Reserve component at no cost to the service member. We realize the biggest hurdle is the offset of appropriations because DoD has not funded this option, but we believe that the benefit far exceeds the expense.

The National Guard is required to keep the exact same medical, physical, and individual standards as the active component, but they are not given the same healthcare benefit to meet and maintain those standards. During the early 2000’s, as the country began to demand more of the reserve component, Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) was created to increase servicemembers' readiness by providing an affordable healthcare option for servicemembers. As the need for a stronger, ready National Guard became evident, it also put a spotlight on the medical readiness of the Guard. A program like TRS made healthcare an option for those Soldiers and Airmen, but was not an immediate, and certainly not a guaranteed, fix to the problem.

- Having a benefit available, but not provided, did not mean that Soldiers or Airmen were enrolling in the program.
- The variety of healthcare treatments and coverage means that health care records are scattered over several locations (duty stations, TDY locations, civilian providers, etc), making it impossible to monitor deployable standards. Plus, a civilian provider might not ask or keep the needed medical data for military service.
- Annual health assessments just provide an evaluation of health readiness, not solutions to identified problems. These annual evaluations are also conducted during drill weekends, meaning that training time is exchanged for medical evaluations.
- There is a loss of health care coverage when an individual's duty status and orders change, triggering a different TRICARE program.

Not only is this an individual care issue, but it is also a readiness issue for the National Guard.

For more information regarding TriCare for Reserve Component contact EANGUS at eangus@eangus.org.

Safeguarding the Soldiers & Airmen of the National Guard and their Families