

ROA's Public Policy Portfolio: 118th Congress second session

Objectives:

ROA's public policy portfolio for the second session of the 118th Congress will help *transition* American military readiness into the decisive decade by:

- 1) Ensuring the *transition* from a strategic to an operational reserve is reinforced by modernized law, policy, and execution.
- 2) Ensuring seamless *transitions* for component interoperability.
- 3) Ensuring seamless *transitions* for capability interoperability.
- 4) Eliminating discontinuities in *transitions* between health care plans for Reserve and National Guard service members, their survivors, and "gray area" retirees.
- 5) Improving *transitions* between military and civilian life for Reserve and National Guard service members, military families, and veterans of the reserve force.

Portfolio:

Ensure the transition from a strategic to an operational reserve is reinforced by modernized law, policy, and benefits:

- Establish a White House Commission to examine national defense requirements.
- Enact duty status reform.
- Define "operational reserve."
- Include the reserve components in the National Defense Strategy.
- Support S.2297, the *Parity for Public Health Service Ready Reserve Act*.
- Support S.2590, the *PHS COR Act*.

Ensure seamless transitions for component and capability interoperability:

- Promote a personnel system and equipment capability that enables seamless transition between components and across services.
- Monitor the modernized Space Force personnel management model.
- Fully fund the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account.
- Adequately equip each reserve component.

Eliminate discontinuities in transitions between health care plans for Reserve and National Guard service members and "gray area" retirees.

- Support 24/7/365 government-provided, military-grade health care: H.R.4221, the *Healthcare for Our Troops Act*.
- Support H.R.3668/S.1670, the *TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act*.

Improve transitions between military and civilian life for Reserve and National Guard service members, military families, and Americans:

- Support ROA's draft *Delivering Reservist Integration and Veterans Education Act*.
- Support ROA's draft *Replenishing the Ranks Act*.
- Support H.R.5844, the *Savings for Servicemembers Act*.
- Support H.R.3943, the *Servicemember Employment Protection Act*.
- Support H.R.3253, the *Reservist Pay Equity Act*.
- Support H.R.4244/S.2076, the *Servicemember Enrollment and Readmission for Valuable Education Act*.
- Support H.R.4328, the *National Nursing Shortage Task Force Act*.
- Champion ROA's version of universal military training.

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About ROA:

Since 1922, the Reserve Officers Association, now doing business as the Reserve Organization of America to reflect an all-ranks membership, has relentlessly advocated to ensure the reserve components are strong and ready and reserve component service members and their families are well cared for.

The founders of ROA, veterans of World War I led by General of the Armies John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, believed complacency and isolationism would leave America vulnerable to military unpreparedness.

As the political and national security context has changed over the past century, ROA has stayed committed to its original mission, then stated as "... to support and assist in the development and execution of a military policy for which the United States shall provide adequate National Defense."

ROA's vital role in national security and ensuring military readiness is well documented and was formally recognized in the 117th Congress by the U.S. Senate with the unanimous passage of **S.Res. 820**, *A resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of the Reserve Officers Association, now known as the Reserve Organization of America*.

The Reserve and National Guard now function as a strategic and operational reserve, essential and integral to the ability of our military to do its job. They must be funded, trained, and equipped accordingly.

ROA believes military readiness requires reserve component personnel and equipment capabilities that achieve interoperability with the active component.

ROA's public policy portfolio for the second session of the 118th Congress focuses on the criticality of ensuring American military superiority transitions into the next decade.

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