



Position: The Reserve Organization of America urges Congress to support H.R.5844, the *Savings for Servicemembers Act*.

Background: Drill weekends are a *non-negotiable* requirement for reserve component service members that ensure readiness.

Reserve and National Guard service members may be eligible to deduct mileage and other travel expenses associated with drill weekends when they file their annual tax returns. Unfortunately, the eligibility was changed in 2017 with [Public Law No: 115-97](#), the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*.

Now, the deduction is only provided to those reserve component members who travel more than 100 miles to their drilling location. Before the act, it was provided to those who traveled more than 50 miles.

As a result, the likelihood of deducting mileage and other travel expenses associated with drill weekends for Reserve and National Guard service members has been substantially reduced. Conversely, those eligible are likely to receive *substantial savings* each year.

H.R.5844, the *Savings for Servicemembers Act*, simply amends [Title 26 U.S.C §62\(a\)\(2\)\(E\)](#) by decreasing the travel distance required for the deduction from 100 miles or more to 50 miles or more.

Take mileage, for example. The mileage portion of the deduction is calculated by multiplying the total mileage traveled to and from drill weekends for the year by the standard mileage rate issued yearly by the Internal Revenue Service (currently \$0.67 cents per mile).

The table below shows the savings that would be provided on mileage alone to reserve component service members covered by H.R.5844, at *zero cost* to the Department of Defense.

Travel Distance:	50 miles to drill	75 miles to drill	99 miles to drill
Savings:	\$737.00	\$1,105.50	\$1459.26

The need to codify the *Savings for Servicemembers Act* into law is urgent. And unlike recent actions taken by DoD to strengthen the economic security of service members and their families, this legislation addresses an issue uniquely faced by those in the reserve components.

ROA urges Congress to support **H.R.5844**, the *Savings for Servicemembers Act*.

For contact: Matthew Schwartzman, mschwartzman@roa.org