

Position: The Reserve Organization of America urges Congress to support H.R.1423/S.649, the *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025*.

Background: Under current law, reserve component members can earn qualifying days toward Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits if they serve at least 90 cumulative or 30 continuous days on active duty and are discharged with a service-connected disability or awarded the Purple Heart.

However, their inactive duty training days and annual tour days do not count. Additionally, many activation statuses under Title 10 and 32 are excluded.

This disparity puts reserve component members at a disadvantage. An active-duty service member may earn GI Bill credit for the same training day or mission that does not qualify for a reservist.

The All-Volunteer Force was designed to maximize economic and readiness benefits. Ensuring fair compensation for reserve service aligns with these goals by improving recruiting, retention, and operational readiness.

Educational benefits play a crucial role in labor market competitiveness. Higher education expands civilian career opportunities, making GI Bill benefits particularly valuable for reservists who rely on dual incomes. Education also enhances leadership, critical thinking, and technical skills essential for promotion to senior enlisted and officer ranks.

For the Department of Defense, a more inclusive GI Bill policy would recognize the evolving nature of military service and ensure reserve personnel receive the support they need. It also strengthens fairness, enhances retention, and ensures America's military remains the world's most capable force. Not to mention, expanding eligibility will promote fairness and increase reserve participation in national security operations, such as border security.

H.R.1423/S.649, the *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025*, introduced by Sens. Moran (KS) and Blumenthal (CT) and Reps. Levin (CA-49) and Kelly (MS-01), achieves this by allowing reserve component members to count all paid points days toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility. ROA strongly supports this bill and urges its swift codification in public law.

For contact: Matthew Schwartzman, mschwartzman@roa.org