



Legislative Alert #113-18: SUPPORT H.R. 2785 and S. 1320, the Military Reserve Jobs Act of 2013
MILITARY

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Issue Background: Many members of the Reserve Component often struggle to find jobs outside their military service as employers are cautious in hiring an individual who could be deployed at any time. For instance, the National Guard Bureau (NGB) has estimated that approximately 44% percent of Army National Guard (ARNG) soldiers and 70% percent of Air National Guard (ANG) airmen have not qualified for Veterans' preference for employment. These statistics show the large amount of Reserve Component member being affected in the workforce by their inability to qualify for this status. There is a vital need to improve the hiring of these Reserve Component servicemember to reduce the staggering high unemployment rate numbers.

Action Required: Contact your Representatives and Senators and urge them to support and cosponsor H.R. 2785, introduced by Representative Timothy J. Walz (D-MN-01), and S. 1320, introduced by Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN), the Military Reserve Jobs Act of 2013, which would establish a tiered hiring preference for members of the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces.

Details (To Be Put Into Letter):

Our nation's Reserve Components are currently facing a problem that has been affecting thousands of Reserve Component Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines nationwide. These brave men and women stand ready to be deployed at any time, but they still do not receive Veterans' preference for employment. This creates an obstacle in obtaining employment at the Federal and State level, causing this group to face some of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. After fighting for our countries freedom, these servicemembers should not have to cope with the stress of unemployment. By giving Reservists Veteran preference in Federal hiring decisions, Reserve Component members will have the opportunity to find careers that utilize their skills, support their families, and honor their service.

H.R. 2785 and S. 1320 are both commendable pieces of legislation that encourage the hiring of Reserve Component members, while promoting the recruitment, retention, and readiness of the Armed Forces, at no additional cost to the taxpayer. This legislation uses a three tier system, based on each individual Reservists years of service, to recognize the contributions of the Reserve Component by giving them a better opportunity in the workforce. Under the bill, a qualified member would be able to claim a point preference based on their length of service. Tier I provides a

3-point preference for members who make a service commitment of six years, while Tier II allows for a 5-point preference for service beyond ten years. The last tier, Tier III, is targeted to a Reservist who retires after 20 or more years of service but is not yet receiving a preference. In addition to ensuring that Reserve Component member's service is recognized in the hiring process, this bipartisan bill also brings the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) in line with other agencies by creating an appeals process for all Veterans if their preference rights are violated. The VHA is currently the only non-intelligence agency that is lacking an appeals process. By following these guidelines, Reserve Component members are given the chance needed to be successful outside of the military.

There is no reason why an Army Doctor or Navy Corpsman shouldn't be given Federal hiring preference when applying for a job to care for the same Soldiers and Marines they cared for while in service. This legislation helps servicemembers obtain desired careers in the Federal government, while also allowing the men and women in uniform to receive the recognition they deserve.

Take Action: Click the "Take Action" link at the top of the Alert to immediately email and/or write to your Senators and Representatives. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. You can also write and/or e-mail the 'Details' section or edit as you desire for a more personalized communication . Also, contact friends and family and urge them to use the Contact Congress feature on AUSN's website as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to our Director of Legislation, Anthony Wallis, at 703-548-5800 or at Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org.