

The Educational Development for (S.473) **TROOPS & VETERANS ACT**

The *Educational Development (ED) for Troops and Veterans Act* (S.473) will provide education benefits to service members who often have to leave behind schools, jobs, and homes to serve their country.

The ED for Troops and Veterans Act will do five things:

1. Provide protections and benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve who deploy.

For those stepping away from their career to serve their country, this bill will protect them from reduced wages or even termination from their job. And it makes sure that National Guard and Reserve members receive the same GI Bill education benefits as their active duty counterparts for time deployed overseas.

2. Allow service members to defer student loan payments during training for an upcoming deployment.

Service members train for months before a deployment, and often have to relocate to do so. These folks shouldn't face financial hardship due to their student loan payments while serving our country and they should be completely freed up to focus on readiness requirements prior to deployment.

3. Establish a grant program to build, maintain and improve college veteran education centers.

A number of benefits and resources exist for student veterans, but for many it's a complicated system that's hard to navigate. Veteran education centers help student veterans maximize their benefits, receive academic aid, and connect with their peers on campus.

4. Keep tuition assistance for members of the National Guard and Reserve competitive.

The cost of college tuition is increasing by the year, and GI Bill tuition assistance for Guardsmen and reservists shouldn't continue to lose its value.

5. Protect Reservists' monthly housing allowance during training.

Reservists have to commit to a number of training days a month to maintain readiness. This provision will correct a discrepancy that denies reservists who train on active duty status from receiving the full housing allowance to which they should be entitled. Many of these reservists are students who greatly rely on this allowance while furthering their education.

"We urge the Senate to pass this important bill to ensure the men & women of the National Guard accrue Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits in the same manner as their active-duty brothers and sisters. This is not just a benefit-parity issue. It's a question of fairness."

Major Gen. Gus Hargett
National Guard Association

THE BILL IS SUPPORTED BY:

- **Student Veterans of America**
- **Veterans Education Success**
- **Reserve Officers Association**
- **The Retired Enlisted Association**
- **Vietnam Veterans of America**
- **The National Guard Association of the United States**
- **The American Legion**

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA
JON TESTER