



THE ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF

OREGON



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To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 1557. The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Oregon (EANGOR) and its 355 members are behind the passing of this bill and the immense support it will provide to our Citizen Soldiers. Many Enlisted members of the Oregon National Guard have been, and will continue, to be affected by annual training and professional development school for longer than 14 days, but less than 30 days per fiscal year. Many soldiers attend college course during their civilian time, and miss valuable days in classrooms due to their duty in service. Unfortunately, many professors do not take soldiers commitment of duty into consideration when having to miss some classroom time, resulting in penalization from an academic standpoint. In March 2017, my unit attended new equipment training in Yakima, WA for 28 days, at least five of my soldiers did not attend college courses that term, due to fear of repercussion and the negative effect on their academic standing.

As we continue to ramp up our enlistment in the Oregon National Guard and continue our anticipated high operational tempo, we need to ensure our soldiers will be taken care of with respect to their educational endeavors and civilian lives. EANGOR believes Senate Bill 1557 is a much deserved, step towards supporting our Guardsmen and women in Oregon whom are seeking support in their educational endeavors. Our Citizen Soldiers have reciprocated their support for the State of Oregon by their duty in service.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Respectfully,

1st Sergeant Travis G. Parker