Reserve Organization of America

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May 19, 2026

The Honorable Tommy Tuberville
Chairman
Subcommittee on Personnel
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services
By e-mail

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Personnel
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services
By e-mail

Dear Chairman Tuberville and Ranking Member Warren:

On behalf of the Reserve Organization of America, I write in connection with the Subcommittee's hearing on DoD personnel policies and programs and the FY 2027 Defense Authorization Request. ROA respectfully urges oversight of preparations to implement Section 623 of the FY 2025 NDAA (P.L. 118-159), and inclusion of the *Reserve Forces Travel Fairness Act* (H.R. 7593) in the Subcommittee's Military Personnel markup of the FY 2027 NDAA.

Section 623 amended 37 U.S.C. § 452 to authorize full reimbursement of travel expenses for reservists traveling more than 50 miles from their permanent residence for inactive-duty training and other reserve duty. The provision takes effect January 1, 2027, and the necessary preparations should be made this cycle. ROA urges the Subcommittee to confirm the Services are positioned to implement on time, and to identify any ancillary budgetary impacts so adjustments can be addressed before execution.

Section 623 addresses only part of the cost-of-service problem RC members carry. Status of Forces Survey data show the average drilling reservist performs approximately 109 hours of uncompensated duty annually, rising 23 percent between 2017 and 2019; more current figures remain pending, as ROA's February FOIA request (case 26-F-1308) is unanswered despite prior surveys being published publicly. The *Reserve Forces Travel Fairness Act* (H.R. 7593) closes a persistent gap: under current Joint Travel Regulation provisions, reservists who rent a vehicle for mandatory training 150 miles or more from home may be reimbursed only for travel days, not the days the vehicle is actually used. H.R. 7593 covers the full training period plus one adjacent travel day on each end.

ROA's analysis of enacted appropriations from FY 1999 through FY 2026 finds RC per-capita MilPers costs run at approximately 0.31 times equivalent Active-Duty costs, generating approximately $63.4 billion in FY 2026 savings alone and roughly $1.3 trillion cumulatively. The travel-related costs at issue are well-justified against that fiscal advantage. ROA stands ready to support the Subcommittee's work and welcomes the opportunity to engage further.

Sincerely,

John B. Hashem
Maj. Gen., U.S. Army (Ret.)
Chief Executive Officer