



## **State Representatives**

**Adam Miller**  
**Dick Stein**

### **Remarks to House Higher Education Committee Regarding HB 242 (As Introduced) October 4, 2023**

Thank you Chair Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Joe Miller.

I also want to thank my friend and co-sponsor, Rep. Stein.

This is a simple, yet important bill.

It would establish the Ohio Reserve Component Scholarship for those Ohioans serving in our nation's regular reserves, regardless of component or branch.

This means eligible recipients will come from Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Army Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, and future reserve components.

Currently, Ohio only has scholarship program for members of the Ohio National Guard. The Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program covers 100% of tuition charges, for qualifying members, for courses applicable to, or leading to, an associate or bachelor's degree, a diploma-granting nursing program, as well as approved trade certification, credential-certifying, or licensing programs at participating Ohio public colleges and universities.

The bill would create a parallel scholarship program, administered by the Department of Higher Education, for those serving in the regular reserve.

The scholarship is a critical tool for recruitment and retention in the armed forces.

*Stein:*

*By offering tuition assistance at Ohio colleges and universities, we can better retain these service members and keep their talents and expertise here at home.*

*The Current Guard Scholarship Program has proven to be a key recruitment and retention tool for the National Guard. It will be equally valuable to the reserve component. That is why the bill is a priority for the reserve service chiefs.*

*Ohio has more than 10,000 members in reserve forces in addition to the approximately 16,000 members of the Ohio National Guard. By providing in tuition support for those 10,000 reserve members, we can continue to recruit and retain these service members to serve and stay in Ohio.*

*This bill ensures that we don't pit service branches or reserve components against each other.*

*And, it helps to keep these outstanding women and men, serving in Ohio, to stay in Ohio.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 242. We welcome any questions from the committee.*