

**Testimony of Christopher A. Roback, COL, Congressional
Legislative Liaison, 88th Readiness Division, Army Reserve
regarding HB 242, Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship
Program**

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

My name is Christopher Roback. I am a Colonel in the US Army
Reserve assigned to the Congressional Legislative Liaison, 88th
Readiness Division. I flew in last night from Minnesota because I fully
understand the importance of recruiting and retention as this is Lt. Gen.
Jody Daniels' number one Priority.

In my role with the US Army I am a Congressional legislative
liaison which bridges the Army Reserve with both state and federal
legislatures so that we can have a synchronized message.

It is my first time in Columbus and I am humbled and honored to
provide testimony to you in support of HB 242.

Of the 11,000 Reserve Forces in Ohio, 5,600 are USAR Soldiers. By Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 3025.18, the USAR has Immediate Response Authority (IRA) that allows local units to “take immediate action to save lives, prevent human suffering or mitigate great property damage in a situation of urgency when there is insufficient time to get approval from higher headquarters.

The Army Reserve also has a major role in the Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) under the same DoD directive. The USAR has nearly 70% of the sustainment forces in the U.S. Army. This means they carry the preponderance of the Medical, Engineer, Logistics (Food, Water, Fuel, and Ammunition), and Signal units. These are essential units needed to sustain combat operations over the long term.

The high school student should be able to make a critical life decision as to what Army component - Regular Army (RA), Army National Guard (ARNG), or USAR - they would like to enlist in without putting money first and potentially diverting to a field that was not their

first choice. By leveling the money incentive, the individual can make a more careful choice as to where and how they want to serve.

The USAR is currently at a huge disadvantage with the tuition incentives compared to the ARNG – nationwide. With the examples stated in paragraph one, an individual can train up, for example, as an Engineer, and can use that training to get a civilian job at Caterpillar. Similar Army Signal jobs can get someone into a high-tech industrial job.

The Ohio Tuition Assistance Bill is excellent because it includes ALL service reserve forces with the benefit to the individual to pursue many options while thriving in their communities. The bill also does not constrain Ohio ARNG funding as it is a different funding allocation. I am fully vested in this bill and am hopeful that most of the bill's language is adopted by other states once it is passed in Ohio.

Again, I thank you for your time and consideration of this important bill. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Thank You

