



*Monroe County Legislature*

**C. STEPHEN ECKEL**

LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 26

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Committee Assignment
<b>Memorializing Referral</b> - L

April 9, 2007

To the Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
407 County Office Building  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, New York 14614

**Re: Memorializing the United States Congress to Pass Legislation to Decrease the Disparity in Military Benefits between Military Reservists and Enlisted Servicemen and Women**

Honorable Legislators:

National Guard and military reserve troops make tremendous sacrifices for our nation. Over 500,000 reservists and National Guard members have been called to active duty since the September 11, 2001 attacks, accounting for nearly 40 percent of the total forces fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq. As part of their service agreement, reservists and members of the National Guard are eligible for a variety of benefits including medical and disability benefits, tuition assistance, and a monthly stipend.

Regrettably, despite facing the same dangers serving in combat, these brave soldiers do not receive nearly the same level of education benefits as enlisted active duty military personnel. Currently, a reservist who is attending school receives a \$297 monthly stipend, while an active duty enlisted soldier receives \$1,097. Reservist pay increases after a certain period of time or after service overseas, but it never, even remotely, approaches the amount that an active duty soldier receives.

Senator Charles Schumer has pledged to introduce legislation that will enforce more equitable distribution of benefits between all members of the U.S. Armed Forces. His proposal will increase the reservist education benefits to \$600 per month, allow reservists to receive medical treatment closer to their homes, and reimburse them for traveling long distances for training. These measures must be taken in order to close the benefits gap between reservists and active duty military personnel. Reservists perform a critical role in our nation's military, making the same sacrifices as enlisted soldiers, and they deserve just compensation for their service.

Therefore, we urge you to join us in memorializing the United States Congress to support and pass legislation to provide more equitable benefits for all of the brave men and women who protect our nation through their service in the United States Armed Forces.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Stephen Eckel  
Legislator-District 26

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Stephanie Polowe Aldersley  
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