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May 18, 2011

The Honorable Carl Levin Chairman Committee on Armed Services SR-269 Russell Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510-2202 The Honorable John McCain Ranking Member Committee on Armed Services SR-241 Russell Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510-0303

Dear Chairman Levin and Ranking Member McCain:

On behalf of the 60,000 members of the Reserve Officers Association and the over one million Reserve Component members, we are writing to express ROA's support for proposals to amend US Code Title 10 Section 12304 to provide greater access to the Reserve Component (RC) to meet mission requirements requested by the Combatant Commanders as required to execute for our national security strategy. This proposal would enable use of 10 USC 12304 to order the RC to active duty to perform the full spectrum of missions. The proposed language also requires the President to budget for any expected Reserve manpower cost associated in his annual request.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the Department of Defense has mobilized over 800,000 Reserve service members in support of overseas contingencies. Presently, over 90,000 RC personnel are on active duty under the partial mobilization authority. As a matter of historical fact, the Presidential Reserve Call Up (PRC) statute in section 12304 of title 10 is usually used to order the Guard and Reserve members to active duty.

The Reserve Components provide a cost-effective, skill rich force which must be fully leveraged to meet the Nation's overseas and domestic security needs. During the last 10 years it has been recognized that the National Guard and Reserve play a key ongoing operational role. Without a modification to 10 USC 12304, an operational Reserve will be unlikely in the future, and we risk losing the most operationally experienced generation of citizen warriors that this country has had in its Reserve Component for over 30 years.

A mobilization authority gap exists, which necessitates an update to 10 USC 12304. The President needs to have the authority to be able to access the RC for both foreign and domestic missions without declaring an emergency.

On behalf of ROA's members and the Reserve Components, please consider this enhancement to 10 USC 12304. We thank you and your committee members for your diligent work in making sure our Department of Defense has the authorities necessary to carry out its portion of the National Security Strategy. If you have any questions please contact CAPT Marshall Hanson, legislative director, at (202) 646-7713 or <a href="makengage-ma

Sincerely,

Walker M. Williams III Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

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