

**RECORD VERSION**

**STATEMENT BY**

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**BEFORE THE**

**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL**

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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Chairwoman Speier, Ranking Member Kelly, distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, we appreciate the opportunity to testify on duty status reform. On behalf of the Chief, National Guard Bureau (NGB), General Joseph Lengyel, thank you for your support of and commitment to our National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, Technicians, Civilians, and Families.

Duty status reform (DSR) is intended to streamline the current system of 30 different authorities and align benefits to better and more efficiently reflect the nature of the duties RC members perform in a manner members can understand.

Implementation of DSR will require significant revisions to hundreds of DoD and other agencies' directives, instructions, regulations, and policies. National Guard senior leaders, State Adjutants General, and the Council of Governors maintain that their existing authorities must remain safeguarded in any proposed DSR legislative action process. States and Governors remain focused on maintaining accessibility and the unique authorities with respect to their State National Guard.

The advantages of duty status reform include increased efficiency and administration of pay and benefits, as well as increased clarity on which Guard duty statuses qualify for particular benefits.

We remain optimistic the remaining DSR issues can be addressed. NGB staff continue to work with the Secretary of Defense's staff and the States to resolve remaining concerns in an earnest effort to support the legislative proposal's completion.