



American Legion Auxiliary

*A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,
Military, and their Families*

May 21, 2020

TO: National Executive Committee Members, National Officers, National Chairmen,
Past National Presidents

CC: Department Presidents; Department Secretaries, NHQ Staff

From: Kelly Circle, Executive Director

Re: **Call to Action 5-21-2020**

The Legion has asked for our help in spreading the word and contacting our Representatives on the Senate and House Armed Services Committees regarding the issue below. This is a chance to work our Mission while at home and a chance to show our support for ALL our military!

If your Representative is not on the committee, you will receive a message that your message could not be sent. Feel free to reach out to your Senator and Representative and let them know how you feel. I included locator links at the bottom. Thank you for your time and efforts!

Here is the entire Call to Action message sent out yesterday evening:

Legislative Commission and Legislative Council Vice Chairmen,

As the nation's largest veterans organization made up of nearly 2 million members, we are calling on the Legislative Commission and Legislative Council Vice Chairmen to disseminate the following Call to Action to your respective Legionnaires and Legislative Council members.

Please distribute the following message as well as the link provided so that our members can contact Congress directly!

Currently, more than 40,000 National Guard members have answered the call to service to help our nation fight this unprecedented pandemic. When these servicemembers report to duty, they do so knowing they are putting themselves in harm's way for the greater good of our nation. Part of the promise we make to our National Guard is when they are called to duty, they will earn certain retirement and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for their service.

Unfortunately, our nations servicemembers are being treated like numbers on a spreadsheet instead of the heroes that they are. The Department of Defense has enacted a policy of issuing a "hard stop" for National Guard orders at 89 days, 1-day shy of the 90-day threshold required to earn many retirement and educational benefits.



American Legion Auxiliary

*A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,
Military, and their Families*

“The coronavirus pandemic has been devastating for many people. We would be far worse off if we did not have the National Guard setting up field hospitals, cleaning nursing homes and delivering emergency supplies. An 89-day deployment strongly suggests a decision based on accounting rather than what’s needed to truly respond to this emergency. The American Legion is calling for the president to fix this,” said American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford.

Contact your Representatives on the Senate and House Armed Services Committees today to urge them to tell DoD to extend our Guardsman’s orders so they can earn the benefits they deserve!

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/campaigns/74588/respond>

Thank you,

National Legislative Division
grassroots@legion.org

To find your Senator:

https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?OrderBy=state&Sort=ASC

To find your Representative:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>