

April 26, 2008

MEMORANDUM FROM Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Montana gathered in General Conference at the 36th Annual Convention in Billings, MT.

SUBJECT: Reauthorization of Resolution 06-07 to Resolution No. 08-07

Resolution for State Tuition Waivers

Resolution No. 08-07

Concerning: Providing Montana University System tuition waivers for members of the Montana National Guard.

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System are allowed to provide tuition waivers to students. One provision in the Montana Code Annotated (MCA), 20-25-421, provides the Regents the option of waiving up to 5,000 credits per academic year for active members of the Montana National Guard under the Montana National Guard Education Benefit Program. While our association made progress last session by getting the waiver authority on par with other waivers within the statute, a sunset provision was added to the law. The equal status of the waivers for the National Guard will expire in 2009 unless we are able to remove the sunset provision; and

WHEREAS, Recruiting and Retention within the Montana National Guard is the number one mission. We cannot remain viable as an organization unless we are successful in our efforts to maintain strength. Multiple options are needed to attract and retain high quality personnel in the Montana National Guard. The increased dependence on the National Guard at both the state and federal level requires we maintain a strong and viable force; and

WHEREAS, removal of the sunset provision in the state statute and elimination of the 5,000-credit cap will allow our members and prospective members the assurance that their education benefits are stable and can be depended upon; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Montana, gathered here in General Conference on April 26, 2008 in Billings, Montana do request that the Legislature of the State of Montana during the 2009 Session to pursue legislation removing the sunset provisions and the 5,000 credit cap provided for in the Montana National Guard Education Benefit Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Governor Brian Schweitzer, Senate President Mike Cooney, Senate Minority Leader Corey Stapleton, Speaker of the House Scott Sales, House Minority Leader John Parker.

CSM Ronda Scott
President
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Montana

Date Approved