



# **NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA**

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## **2017 Public Policy Objectives**

**The objective of the public policy agenda for NGAI is to advocate for quality of life improvements for our Soldiers, Airmen and Families. It is also to improve the state of Indiana's ranking as a military/veteran friendly state. The proposed legislative issues are a win-win for military members and the state of Indiana plus enhance the recruiting and retention of Indiana Guardsmen, Retirees and Veterans.**

### **1. Fund Study for State Income Tax Exempt Status of All Military Pay**

- Legislation will be authored to conduct a comprehensive economic impact study, to secure the total exemption in 2017 if it is found to be economically sound.

**Why:** To create an incentive to attract and secure veterans and retirees back to Indiana to fuel the Indiana Economy by providing a highly trained, experienced and disciplined workforce. IGA needs to understand the economic force of our military members whether actively serving, retired or veteran. If the military/veteran population were treated like a business, there would be many tax incentives offered to locate in Indiana.

### **2. Hoosier Veteran and Spouse State Hiring Preference**

- Institute a hiring preference through legislation or Executive Order for State employment for Hoosier Veterans and spouses.

**Why:** Hoosier veterans continue to sacrifice for the State and Nation putting them at a disadvantage in the employment marketplace. Active duty military personnel have difficulty seeking employment for spouses as they are moved or deployed to other bases or locations.

### **3. Employer State Tax Credit for Hiring Unemployed Hoosier Veterans**

- Legislation will be authored to create a \$2000 employer tax credit for hiring unemployed or honorably discharged Hoosier Veterans who do not qualify for the federal tax credit program.

**Why:** Veterans who qualify under the Federal rules benefit from a Federal tax credit as an incentive for employers; Guardsmen or Reservists who served honorably, but did not meet the Federal Guidelines are disadvantaged because they cannot offer a credit for employers.

### **4. Restoration of Full Remission of Education Tuition Fee Benefits to Hoosier Veteran Families**

- Legislation will be authored to reverse, 2011 legislation which tiered the remission to the percentage of disability rating.

Why: Changing this benefit, especially during the war on terror, was a mistake. We need to reinstate the benefit as originally intended.

**Other Policy Objectives which support INNG Recruiting and Retention:**

- Follow-up Indiana National Guard Supplemental Grant Funding and insure that funding is adequate within the 2017-2018 Budget.
- Work towards the creation of a funding mechanism for the State Sponsored Life Insurance program for every active drilling Guardsman.
- Develop creative funding opportunities to eliminate fees for active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired military at all State parks and recreational areas and provide free fishing & hunting license.

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