



# NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA

## 2020 Public Policy Objectives

The objective of the NGAI public policy agenda is to support the Mission of the Indiana National Guard (INNG) by taking care of our Soldiers, Airmen and families:

- Enhance state policy to support Recruiting and Retention of fully manned and ready units
- Advocate for quality of life improvements for our Soldiers, Airmen and families
- Improve the state of Indiana's ranking as a military/veteran friendly state attracting and retaining Hoosier Veterans in the Indiana National Guard as the workforce of choice and best Return on Investment
- Enhance Indiana's effort to recruit and retain military veterans and retiree talent as an economic investment of federal dollars and benefits

**1. State Income Tax Exemption on Military Pay for Indiana National Guardsmen:** create an incentive to attract and retain the best talent for the INNG and the state of Indiana workforce. Whether recruiting or retaining Hoosier Guardsmen or bringing veterans back to Indiana who desire to continue serving their country in the INNG, this tax free incentive leads to a talented, experienced, disciplined, drug free and patriotic and workforce to fuel the Indiana Economy.

**2. Restore the Full Remission of Education Tuition Fee Benefit to Disabled Hoosier Veteran Families**

- Reverse 2011 legislation which tiered the remission to the percentage of disability rating returning it to its original language

Remission of fees was the most significant benefit welcoming Veterans back to Indiana following military service and keeping all Hoosier Veterans in Indiana. 2011 legislation created a tiered system with a base of 20% remission added to your VA disability rating. A disabled veteran with a zero rating now receives 0 + 20% tuition discount. Legislation grandfathered currently serving as of July 1, 2011, thereby creating a tiered Hoosier Veteran status of benefits. (2011 SB 577, Sen Luke Kenley)

**3. Add State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) Language to Indiana Code**

- Codify the State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) as a state level benefit authorized by Congress and the Department of Defense within state code.
- All INNG recruits to be offered SSLI as part of their initial benefits brief and enrollment same as their federal Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI).
- SSLI will be reviewed annually at the same time as SGLI for correct contact information, coverage and beneficiary designation.

SSLI may be currently offered on initial recruitment, but it is not required. Not offering this valuable program may have an adverse effect on the beneficiary or family in the event of an unfortunate loss. Currently, there is not requirement to offer or update SSLI records on an annual basis as there is with federal SGLI benefit.

**4. Study creative public private partnership opportunities in conjunction with the National Guard Association of Indiana Foundation (NGAIF) which support INNG Recruiting and Retention:**

- Work towards the creation of a funding mechanism to pay for the State Sponsored Life Insurance program for every active drilling Guardsman.
- Develop creative funding opportunities to pay fees for currently serving National Guardsmen and families for State parks and recreational areas, hunting and fishing licenses and other potential annual benefits for currently serving members and families.
- Explore other states incentives to boost NG recruiting and retention through state programs, ie PA reenlistment Military Family Education Program (PA GI Bill), MN state specific mos bonus program, and recruit lead referral bonus.

Teresa Mankin  
Executive Director  
National Guard Association of Indiana (NGAI) & Foundation  
(NGAIF) Office: 317-247-3301  
[Teresa.Mankin@ngai.net](mailto:Teresa.Mankin@ngai.net)