

# **Parity for Public Health Service Ready Reserve Act**

## **Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)**

The Parity for Public Health Service Ready Reserve Act would ensure our Nation's response capabilities to regional, national and global public health emergencies, as well as any emerging public health threats, by providing the PHS Ready Reserve with the same the rights, benefits and privileges afforded to other Armed Forces Ready Reserve components.

### **Section 1—Short Title - Parity for Public Health Service Ready Reserve Act**

### **Section 2—Public Health Service Ready Reserve Corps (PHS RRC)**

- Provide the PHS RRC the same access to benefits and entitlements afforded to Reserve component servicemembers of all other uniformed services and allow these officers to integrate in any uniformed service training exercise for all Reservists by amending Title 10 U.S.C. to add:
  - (1) Uniformed service in place of armed force to be more inclusive of all uniformed services including U.S. PHS, Coast Guard and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and
  - (2) Codify the current structure of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Reserve component.

### **Section 3—Dual Compensation Parity**

- Amends Title 5, U.S.C. regarding dual employment and pay of Reserves and National Guardsmen to clarify that all citizens, whether their primary job is working in the private sector or Federal government, can go on military leave with pay.

### **Section 4—Clarification of Entitlement to Post-9/11 Educational Assistance for Service on Active Duty in the Uniformed Services**

- Amends Title 38 U.S.C. to clarify that the Post-9/11 GI Bill educational assistance for Armed Forces servicemembers are also extended to PHS RRC officers once they meet time-in-service requirements with respect to service occurring on or after March 27, 2020.

### **Section 5—Extension of Certain Educational Benefits to Members of the Public Health Service Corps**

- Amends Title 10, U.S.C. to clarify that PHS RRC Officers have access to the same entitlements of the Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance program once they meet time-in-service requirements with respect to service occurring on or after March 27, 2020.

### **Section 6—Additional Rights and Privileges**

- Amends Title 42 U.S.C. to ensure that PHS Commissioned Corps Officers (both active and reserve) have the same leave rights, state and local juries rights, medical and dental health benefits, licensure portability requirements for healthcare professionals, license plates and consumer credit as Armed Forces servicemembers.

### **Section 7—Expansion of Reserve Forces Policy Board to Include Representation of Public Health Service**

- Amends Title 10 U.S.C. to extend one position on the Reserve Forces Policy Board to the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps to serve as an independent adviser to the Secretary of Defense to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary on strategies, policies and practices designed to improve and enhance the capabilities, efficiency and effectiveness of the reserve components.

### **Section 8—Funding of the Ready Reserve Corps**

- Amends Title 42 U.S.C. to authorize \$13.6 million in appropriations for each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to allow for sustainment of the PHS RRC at approximately 400 officers, with 31 management full time equivalents.