

Executive Council Update – Q1 Legislative Report

1. Shutdown Fairness Act and Government Shutdown

- Met with Sen. Ron Johnson's team; stand-alone Senate passage is unlikely due to partisan opposition.
- Strategy is to attach the bill to a House-originated, must-pass vehicle.
- **Rep. Dusty Johnson (R) and Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D)** are potential bipartisan House leads.
- Meetings scheduled next week with HASC defense fellows to identify additional House support.
- Exploring outreach to DoD and the White House to build executive-branch backing.
- House has passed funding bills and a shutdown is unlikely, but Senate timing remains tight.
- If a shutdown occurs, it is expected to be brief (1–2 weeks).
- Planning a member Call to Action if a shutdown occurs to elevate Guard impacts and build momentum.

2. Duty Status Reform (DSR)

- Duty Status Reform is a top Guard priority and a major legislative focus this year.
- NGAUS is leading, and EANGUS is coordinating closely with their team.
- **H.R. 6976** is the current House vehicle; **Sens. Rosen and Moran** are likely Senate leads.
- SASC is actively engaging DoD on the issue.
- Reform is structured as a 10-year implementation to manage CBO scoring concerns.
- Goal is to ensure DSR advances related priorities such as GI Bill Parity and TRICARE equity.
 - 2026 is about getting our foot in the door. The next 10 years will be negotiating what it means exactly.

3. Military Technician Modernization

- Technician modernization raises concerns about retirement, healthcare, and work-life balance.
- EANGUS priorities being communicated to DoD and the Hill:
 - Technicians must be paid during government shutdowns.
 - Promised bonuses must be protected.
 - Technicians must retain access to TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS).

4. National Guard Relief Foundation (NGRF) NDAA Request

- Objective is to have NGRF recognized as an official military relief society in the NDAA.
- This is a zero-cost proposal with demonstrated value during the last shutdown.
- HASC is the primary gatekeeper; meetings with member staff are scheduled next week.
- Ideal outcome is bipartisan leadership from **Chairman Mike Rogers** and **Ranking Member Adam Smith**.
- Strong opportunity in an election year with minimal political risk.

5. Target of Opportunity: 90-10 Rule

- Several MSOs and VSOs are moving to challenge the 90-10 rule in higher education.
- In 2021, VA and DoD education benefits were added to the 90 percent side for private schools only.

- This change unintentionally limits access for Guard members and veterans at military-serving institutions.
- The new Gainful Employment (GE) rule provides a better, outcomes-based accountability model than 90-10.
- GE applies to all institutions and does not cap military-connected enrollment.
- Historic EANGUS position (2019–2021) opposed adding VA/DoD benefits to the 90 percent side.
- A similar proposal last year failed due to insufficient explanation of EANGUS's historic stance.
- I recommend reviving this issue as:
 - The 90-10 rule is now redundant and outdated.
 - It hinders Guard access to education without improving accountability.
 - Coalition participation would build political capital with MSOs and VSOs.
 - There is potential for private-sector funding support tied to this effort.
- I am requesting **Executive Council** approval to pursue this line of effort.