

EAANG RESOLUTION AR 14-03

PERTAINING TO: TRICARE Reserve Select availability to Reserve Component members who are also Federal Employees

ISSUE: Section 706 of the FY07 NDAA authorized TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) for all National Guard Members and their families, however, the language was inserted into the statute which prohibits eligibility to enroll in TRS if the member is enrolled or eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of Title 5, or better known as “Federal Employee Health Benefits” (FEHB) program. This exclusion is codified in Title 10 U.S.C. Section 1076d, (a)(2). This exclusion affects all National Guard Technicians as well as all members working for other government agencies who participate in the FEHB Program.

BACKGROUND: As many as 50,000 Guard members are prohibited from choosing TRS as a family coverage option due to this restriction. In some cases, currently, the rates for TRS can be nearly half the cost of the least expensive coverage option under the FEHB, making TRS the better option for many Guard Members who are currently not eligible. Eliminating this restriction will allow Guard Technicians greater choice in selecting the health care plan which best meets their families needs. This is currently an EANGUS resolution, NR 12-02 and NR12-31, that will expire in August.

RECOMMENDATION: Amend title 10 U.S.C. Section 1067d (a) by deleting paragraph two which creates an exclusion in TRICARE eligibility for anyone eligible for health benefits under Chapter 89 of Title 5 (Federal Employee Health Benefit Program).

SUBMITTED BY: Jeffrey James Frisby