

Written Testimony

In regards to Raised Senate Bill 861

Submitted by: Walton Schlechtweg

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Past President of the National Guard Association of CT

To: Select Committee on Veterans Affairs

Thursday, February 19, 2009

Members of the Select Committee on Veteran's Affairs, I regret that due to other commitments, I am unable to appear before you today. I do wish to submit comments for your consideration on Raised Senate Bill No. 861, *An Act concerning Retirement from Military Service*

I support this Bill with the following two exceptions:

As it is currently written there are unequal benefits available to officers and enlisted personnel who retire. I recommend that line no. 6 and 7 as reads: "not less than three years as a commissioned officer or warrant officer," be changed to read: "not less than three years in grade."

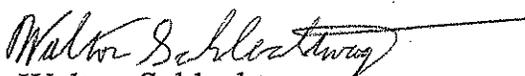
The title of "Sergeant Major" is for pay grade E-9 in the Army National Guard. The Air National Guard's title for pay grade E-9 is "Chief Master Sergeant." I recommend that on line no. 21 that the words "or chief master sergeant" be inserted immediately after "or sergeant major."

In 1997 Proposed Senate Bill No. 881 was submitted to resolve this inequity but was unsuccessful. (attached)

There many enlisted members of both the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, who have taken the required professional military training, and are assigned in specialties that do not offer any promotion opportunity to the next higher grade. It is only fitting that these dedicated individuals be rewarded with a promotion to the next higher grade

Thank you for your time; I am available to answer any question you have.

Respectfully,


Walton Schlechtweg

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1 Atch: (1997, SB 881)

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Proposed Bill No. 881

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Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY

LCO No. 5602

Introduced by SEN. BOZEK, 6th DIST.

General Assembly
January Session, A.D., 1997

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RETIREMENT OF ENLISTED PERSONS IN THE SERVICE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE STATE OR THE GOVERNOR'S MILITARY STAFF.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That Part V of Chapter 504 of the general statutes be amended to allow any enlisted person in the armed forces of the state and any enlisted person on the Governor's military staff to be eligible for promotion to the next higher grade at which he served and to retire at such grade, provided such enlisted person has served honorably for a minimum of twenty years.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To address the unequal benefits available to officers and enlisted personnel who retire.

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