

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, according to recent reports in the Los Angeles Times, the Department of Defense is demanding repayment of enlistment bonuses and other benefits paid to nearly 10,000 members of the California National Guard during the mid-2000s;

WHEREAS, these bonuses and benefits were offered to induce Californians serving in the National Guard to reenlist during a period when the United States Army was engaged in active combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, and many soldiers in our National Guard relied in good faith on these inducements when deciding to reenlist;

WHEREAS, many California National Guard soldiers who reenlisted served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan; and many of these soldiers bravely faced combat or were injured in service to our Nation;

WHEREAS, Department of Defense actions to obtain repayments have caused great personal and financial hardship to California National Guard soldiers and their families;

WHEREAS; just as our National Guard soldiers have honored their commitments to our Nation and our State, so too do our federal and state governments owe a duty to honor their own commitments to those who serve in our Armed Forces, especially in time of war; and

WHEREAS, the California National Guard has stated that it does not have legal authority to waive repayment of amounts demanded by the Department of Defense;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-16 Federal and State Legislative Programs SUPPORT for any legislative or administrative measures necessary to waive repayment of enlistment bonuses and other financial benefits that were paid to or on behalf of California National Guard soldiers, and which have been or may be demanded by the Department of Defense, and to reimburse any such amounts that have been repaid pursuant to Department of Defense demands, including but not limited to administrative actions by the Department of Defense, federal legislation, and/or appropriations by Congress or the State Legislature.

PRESENTED BY: 
BOB BLUMENFELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL