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An Independent Nonprofit Aerospace Organization

October 1, 2009

The Honorable Ciro Rodriguez  
2351 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rodriguez:

The Air Force Association (AFA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization representing approximately 125,000 current and former Airmen and their families, is writing to express our support H.R. 3577, the *Education Assistance to Realign New Eligibilities for Dependents (EARNED) Act of 2009*.

While the Post 9/11 GI Bill was an important and well-deserved victory for our veterans, some key improvements need to be made. One of the most important of these relates to transferability. Many who served more than 36 months active duty after September 11, 2001; thereby earning full eligibility for this new GI Bill, do not have the ability to transfer their earned benefit to dependents because transferability provisions were not applied retroactively along with the rest of the benefit. Your legislation would revise transferability provisions to allow servicemen and women who are eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, with 20+ years active duty service, and retired between September 11, 2001 and August 1, 2009, to transfer their benefits to dependants.

The Air Force Association fully supports this important effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can assist in any way.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Dunn  
President and CEO