

## South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office

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February 10, 2012

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **S.D. Governor signs ESGR Statement of Support**

Story by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen  
SDNG Public Affairs Office

**PIERRE, S.D.** – Gov. Dennis Daugaard demonstrated his support of the South Dakota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen by signing a Statement of Support Thursday, Feb. 9, in Pierre.

“The purpose of the Statement of Support is to get employers of the Guard and Reserve men and women to publicly show their support,” said the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve State Chair, Ron Mielke. “It is a way for the senior leader of an organization, in this case the Governor of South Dakota, to show that he, and the organization he represents, are willing to fulfill the rights and responsibilities of service members.”

The Statement of Support confirms that Governor Daugaard joins other employers in pledging that:

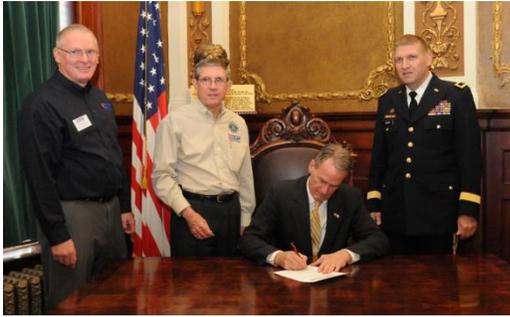
- We fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA).
- Our managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.
- We will continually recognize and support our country’s service members and their families in peace, crises and in war.

Gov. Daugaard’s 22 cabinet members are also signing the Statement of Support, said Mielke.

“Our goal is to have 275 Statements of Support signed this year by employers of Guard and Reserve members,” said Mielke. “We are fortunate to have great employers in South Dakota, whether they are from the public sector, counties, school districts or our private employers. Part of our goal is to maintain a positive relationship between the employers and service members. We went more than four years without having an issue go to the Department of Labor.”

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency that will develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees with ESGR as the principal advocate within DoD.

**PHOTOS:** High-resolution photos for this release are available upon request or at: [www.flickr.com/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/southdakotationalguard)



**120209-A-CW157-001:** Gov. Dennis Daugaard demonstrates his support of the South Dakota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen by signing a Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve as Scott Amos, ESGR employer outreach director, (left) Mr. Ron Mielke, ESGR state chair, and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard (right), at the State Capital in Pierre, Feb. 9, 2012. The Statement of Support is a way for employers to publicly display their support for their Guardsmen or Reservists. (SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)



**120209-A-CW157-002:** Gov. Dennis Daugaard demonstrates his support of the South Dakota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen by signing a Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve as Scott Amos, ESGR employer outreach director, (left) Mr. Ron Mielke, ESGR state chair, and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard (right), at the State Capital in Pierre, Feb. 9, 2012. The Statement of Support is a way for employers to publicly display their support for their Guardsmen or Reservists. (SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Please contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail [pao@sd.ngb.army.mil](mailto:pao@sd.ngb.army.mil)