



Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association

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The Honorable Wiley Deck
Deputy Administrator
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Docket # FMCSA-2016-0069, “Commercial Driver’s Licenses; Expansion of Military Occupational Specialties in the Pilot Program To Allow Persons 18, 19, and 20 Years Old With Military Driving Experience To Operate Commercial Motor Vehicles in Interstate Commerce”

Dear Deputy Administrator Deck:

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) is the largest trade association representing the views of small-business truckers and professional truck drivers. OOIDA has over 150,000 members located in all fifty states that collectively own and operate more than 240,000 individual heavy-duty trucks. OOIDA’s mission is to promote and protect the interests of its members on any issues that might impact their economic well-being, working conditions, and the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) on our nation’s highways.

OOIDA is proud to have approximately 50,000 military veterans as members and supports government initiated programs that promote veterans entering the trucking profession. OOIDA agrees that military experience often lends itself to a successful career within the industry. As FMCSA proposes to expand the ongoing under-21 military pilot program, the agency must ensure that the additional Military Occupation Specialties provide adequate heavy-vehicle training.

We also encourage FMCSA to fully carry out and complete the under-21 military pilot program before initiating any other program analyzing the performance of younger CMV drivers. Unlike the military pilot program, there has been no Congressional mandate for a broader under-21 study and FMCSA should not fund a duplicative pilot program just because legislation has been introduced in Congress.

Sincerely,

Todd Spencer
President & CEO
Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc.