



## T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

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(703) 838-8113

July 12, 2005

The Honorable Sam Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1513 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Graves:

The Military Coalition, a consortium of nationally prominent military and veterans service organizations representing more than 5.5 million members, commends you for reintroducing the Servicemembers Anti-Predatory Lending Protection Act (H.R. 97), and strongly supports its adoption. Recent media reports spotlight images of streets leading to military bases replete with businesses offering "fast cash loans." A visit to a Navy installation in Norfolk, Va., or Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., will authenticate this reality. More importantly, it demonstrates a clear need for Congressional action to address these wide spread practices.

Many of the brave men and women who volunteer to serve in military enlist immediately after graduating from high school. Understandably, they have limited experience in financial matters and are easy targets for unscrupulous lenders. The average Seaman or Private already lives on a relatively low income, and can ill afford to be saddled with ridiculously high interest loans and other indebtedness. The actions of these predators should be regulated, and abuses made punishable by federal law.

The Coalition salutes your leadership on this issue and stands ready to assist you and your staff in working toward the advancement of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition  
(Signatures enclosed)