



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

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-8113

March 15, 2005

The Honorable Steve Buyer
Chairman, Committee on Veteran's Affairs
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent uniformed services and veterans' organizations, representing more than 5.5 million members plus their families and survivors, is writing to inform you that, after discussions with the majority and minority staff of your Committee, TMC has reconsidered its position on the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) spousal consent requirement, as included in the Appropriations Committee's markup of the FY2005 Defense Supplemental Appropriations Act.

TMC believes there is merit to the staff's view that the bill language is excessively stringent and could inappropriately preclude servicemembers' ability to make reasonable insurance decisions - especially in circumstances where it may be reasonable and appropriate for a member to designate children as beneficiaries instead of the current spouse.

TMC believes Congress is doing the right thing in expediting passage of improved death benefits coverage in the Supplemental Appropriations Act, and we have no wish to slow that process in any way.

Therefore, TMC urges your support for a floor amendment that would either substitute a provision requiring spousal notification or strike the spousal consent requirement to allow the Committee to develop more appropriate language that could be offered in conference or another legislative venue.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(signatures attached)