



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

April 19, 2005

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Abercrombie:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent uniformed services and veterans organizations representing more than 5.5 million current and former members of the seven uniformed services, plus their families and survivors, is writing to urge your support for H.R. 838, the Hope at Home Act, a bill that would establish tax incentives for employers of mobilized reservists and for other purposes.

Our Nation's Guard and Reserve members are asked to make many sacrifices; sometimes they make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom. Each Guardsman and Reservist leaves a family at home when making these sacrifices.

TMC is particularly supportive of bill provisions that create deserved tax credits for the thousands of patriotic employers who make up the difference in pay for their National Guard and Reserve members called into federal service. We note that the House unanimously passed employer tax credit legislation last year and the Senate adopted similar language. Unfortunately, the legislation was not brought to the House floor during the compressed lame duck session last November.

H.R.838 also eliminates a technical problem that precludes employers from contributing to their mobilized employees' company retirement plans while they are serving their country.

Finally, the Hope at Home Act would require the federal government to make up any pay gap for its mobilized employees.

The National Guard and Reserve components' enormous contributions to the ongoing global war on terrorism, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan, and guarding the homeland point to the need to maintain a high level of readiness. Providing help for our patriotic employers and their military employees is the right thing to do under these wartime conditions.

The Military Coalition strongly recommends that you endorse a strong and viable National Guard and Reserve for the fight against terrorism at home and abroad by supporting H.R. 838, the Hope at Home Act.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(Signatures Enclosed)