



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
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March 8, 2005

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Akaka:

The Military Coalition, a consortium of nationally prominent uniformed services and veteran's organizations representing more than 5.5 million current and former members of the seven uniformed services, plus their families and survivors, urges you to cosponsor S. 484 to allow members of the uniformed services and Federal annuitants to pay certain health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis.

S. 484 establishes parity for uniformed service beneficiaries, by extending to them the same "premium conversion" benefit that was granted to Executive and Legislative Branch employees more than five years ago. Uniformed services beneficiaries are federal employees and deserve to be afforded the same tax relief for their health care premiums. This legislation also provides equity for uniformed services beneficiaries with private sector workers, who often are able to take advantage of the same tax exemptions through employer sponsored pretax payment plans.

The Military Coalition strongly supports enactment of this legislation to correct this significant inequity in the tax code. Rising health care costs affect all federal employees, civilian or uniformed, active or retired, and this proposal is essential to ensure all are provided similar relief. Our hope is that the precedent set in 2000 for currently serving federal civilian employees will pave the way for similar treatment for all uniformed services and federal personnel.

We urge you to show your support for equity in the treatment of uniformed service and federal employees by cosponsoring this needed legislation. Please cosponsor S. 484 and do all you can to bring this important initiative to enactment this year.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(Signatures Enclosed)