



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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February 27, 2006

The Honorable Mike DeWine  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator DeWine,

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former servicemembers and their families and survivors, is writing to express our sincere thanks for your leadership and support for amendments to the Senate version of FY 2006 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which provided for retroactive Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) payments for military survivors and additional health benefits for their children.

Under previous law, retroactive payments of \$150,000 related to the enhanced \$400,000 SGLI coverage were authorized only for survivors of members killed in combat or operations related incidents. All other survivors received the previous SGLI amount of \$250,000. This created an unfair and difficult situation for families by creating two levels of benefits for survivors. Your amendment provided for retroactive payments for all military survivors back to October 7, 2001.

Dependent children of military survivors currently receive three years of medical benefits under TRICARE Prime at no cost. Your strong efforts to improve this coverage led to the adoption of an amendment to provide free coverage until age 21 or 23 if enrolled in college.

Both amendments were subsequently included in the Senate Defense bill and in the final FY 2006 NDAA. These improvements represent significant victories for military survivors. The TMC thanks you for your leadership on behalf of military members and their families.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition  
(signatures enclosed)

Air Force Association  
Air Force Sergeants Association  
Air Force Women Officers Associated  
American Logistics Association  
AMVETS (American Veterans)  
Army Aviation Association of America  
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States  
Association of the United States Army  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States  
Fleet Reserve Association  
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.  
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America  
Marine Corps League  
Marine Corps Reserve Association  
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America  
Military Officers Association of America  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
National Association for Uniformed Services  
National Guard Association of the United States  
National Military Family Association  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association  
Naval Reserve Association  
Reserve Officers Association  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
United Armed Forces Association  
United States Army Warrant Officers Association  
United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
Veterans' Widows International Network