



## 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

July 13, 2007

The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hagel:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent military and veteran organizations, representing more than 5.5 million members plus their families and survivors, appreciates your leadership in offering an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 that would narrow the pay gap between military members and their civilian counterparts.

The pay gap has been considerably reduced with the significant help of Congress over the past eight years; yet, a gap of 4.0% still exists. The proposed raise for FY08 would continue to reduce the existing gap to 3.5% and your amendment will help to further shrink the gap over the next five years.

The All Volunteer Force was founded on a principle of pay comparability, and when we have deviated from this principle, the Services have experienced severe recruiting and retention problems. Your amendment addresses this principle head-on and is the right thing to do to improve recruiting and retention of our service members.

Thank you again for offering your amendment and the Coalition pledges to work with you to secure its enactment.

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  
Chief Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Association, U.S. Coast Guard  
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  
National Order of Battlefield Commissions  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association  
Naval Reserve Association  
Non Commissioned Officers Association  
Reserve Enlisted Association of the United States  
Reserve Officers Association  
Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces  
The Retired Enlisted 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