



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 23, 2007

The Honorable Tom Latham
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Latham:

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 in support of H.R. 1428, the National Guard and Reserve Retirement Modernization Act, a bill to address the need to upgrade the reserve retirement system to match the nation's operational reserve policy.

This legislation will provide for greatly needed improvements to an outdated Guard and Reserve retirement system built for the Cold War and a "strategic reserve" environment. Today, the Reserve Components are an operational force that is essential to every national security mission at home and overseas. Our Nation is asking these service members and their families to make enormous sacrifices under the new policy and to be absent from civilian employment one-year in every five or six years. Many Guard and Reserve service men and women have already served two or more tours, far more than DoD's planning metric. The demands on our Guard and Reserve and their families increase daily. It is time to change an outmoded reserve retirement system.

Your legislation recognizes that today's operational reservists must forego substantial opportunities to advance their civilian careers and to build a reasonable civilian retirement because of their required military duty. To offset inevitable economic losses and to create incentives for continued service for a full career in the Guard and Reserve, the reserve retirement system must be modernized. An important first step is H.R. 1428.

H.R. 1428 would reduce the minimum age for retirement by three months for each three months served on active duty for a contingency operation and for related emergency duty. For those who continue to serve to protect the homeland and to fight the Global War on Terror, this bill makes sense and is critical to sustaining the all-volunteer Guard and Reserve in the operational reserve environment.

The Military Coalition appreciates your introduction of this legislation. Your bill is a very positive step in helping sustain the Guard and Reserve as full partners in our operating forces. TMC strongly supports H.R. 1428, and pledges to work with you and all of Congress 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 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