



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

June 24, 2008

The Honorable Robert E Latta
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Latta:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent 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 appreciation and strong support for H.R. 6185, a bill that would permit retired members of National Guard and Reserves with 20 or more years of faithful and honorable service to purchase TRICARE health insurance until they reach age 60 and begin receiving their earned retired pay and TRICARE health coverage.

H.R. 6185, the TRICARE Continuity of Coverage for National Guard and Reserve Families Act of 2008, is an important piece of legislation. Your bill supports the national security by encouraging the Guard and Reserve career force to complete a full reserve career in order to continue their health coverage under TRICARE. Moreover, "Gray Area" service men and women remain a readiness asset to the armed forces and many have been recalled to active duty for service in Afghanistan or Iraq. As more of our National Guard and Reserve Component service members are called to duty overseas, even after retirement, they should not suffer a gap in healthcare coverage.

Today's "operational reserve" forces are essential to our national security mission at home and overseas. The nation asks these service members and their families to make enormous sacrifices that take them away from their families, communities and civilian careers more and more frequently.

TMC thanks you for your leadership in introducing this legislation, and your support for a strong and viable National Guard and Reserve Components.

The Military Coalition supports H.R. 6185 and we pledge our full support for its early enactment.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(signatures enclosed)

cc: Chairman Ike Skelton and Ranking Member Duncan Hunter, House Armed Services Committee

Air Force Association
Air Force Sergeants Association
Air Force Women Officers Associated
American Logistics Association
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
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