



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

February 27, 2009

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

Dear Representative Latta:

The Military Coalition, a consortium of nationally prominent uniformed services and veterans associations representing approximately 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, is writing to express our appreciation and strong support for H.R.270, a bill that would permit retired members of the National Guard and Reserves with 20 or more years of honorable service to purchase TRICARE health insurance prior to age 60, the date they would normally be entitled to military health care coverage under the TRICARE program.

TMC regards H.R. 270, the TRICARE Continuity of Coverage for National Guard and Reserve Families Act of 2009, as a career retention incentive for Guard and Reserve men and women. Your bill supports military readiness by encouraging our Guard and Reserve members to complete a full reserve career so that they can continue to have family health coverage after retiring but before they reach age 60.

In addition, because “gray area” reserve retirees are subject to recall into the active armed forces -- and many have been re-activated since September 11, 2001 -- they constitute an important source of mobilization manpower. During their time in the “gray area”, they should not have to suffer any gap in their military health insurance coverage.

Our nation’s “operational reserves” can no longer be managed as they were during the Cold War. H.R. 270 sends a powerful signal that the country values the service and sacrifice of our citizen-warriors. TMC is very confident that your legislation will encourage more Guard and Reserve families to consider staying the course and earning a reserve retirement. In essence, H.R.270 provides continuity of health coverage for those who have volunteered to serve in the defense of this nation.

The Military Coalition applauds you for sponsoring H.R.270 and we pledge our full support towards its enactment this year.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(signatures enclosed)

cf: Chairman Ike Skelton and Ranking Member John McHugh, House Armed Services
Committee

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.
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
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