



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

April 16, 2009

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Abercrombie:

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 urge you to cosponsor 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 the age of 60, the date they normally would 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, introduced by Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH), as a career retention incentive for Guard and Reserve men and women. This bill supports readiness by encouraging our Guard and Reserve members to complete a full reserve career and then be able to purchase TRICARE health coverage after retiring but before they reach age 60.

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 skilled manpower for the armed forces. During their time in the gray area they should not have to suffer a gap in their 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 confident that this cost-neutral bill will encourage more Guard and Reserve families to consider staying the course and earning a reserve retirement.

The Military Coalition recommends that you cosponsor H.R.270 and do all you can to see it enacted into public law.

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
Association of the United States Navy
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
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