



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 10, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pelosi:

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, urges you to ensure that the unique identity and role of the military TRICARE and VA health delivery systems – including their non-taxable status – are preserved under any national health plan that Congress may develop.

These important programs provide essential recognition of the nation's unique responsibilities to those who served in uniform, and the Defense Department's special employer responsibilities to the families of those who spent a two- or three-decade career in military service. These are benefit programs uniquely earned through service to the rest of America and must continue to be distinguished from programs available to other Americans who did not share that burden of sacrifice.

The systems are designed to fulfill specific mission requirements which are not shared by the private sector. Each system is focused on the unique needs of the service member or veteran and is critical in sustaining a career all-volunteer force.

Although these health systems are far from perfect, TMC believes our nation is far better served by maintaining them as unique departmental programs rather than seeking to incorporate them into a national system that does not recognize the government's unique responsibilities to these extraordinary populations.

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 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