



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 26, 2010

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

Dear Representative Abercrombie:

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 to recommend that you become a cosponsor of H.R. 3813, the Veterans Training Act sponsored by Rep. Joe Seskak (D-PA).

H.R. 3813 would permit all VA-approved post-secondary institutions to offer training or education programs to veterans under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Every GI Bill program since World War II has included job training for veterans except for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Service men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan face significant challenges readjusting to civilian pursuits. Veteran unemployment today is well above the national average of 10% unemployment, and women veterans are having more difficulty than their male counterparts in obtaining meaningful employment.

TMC believes very strongly that Congress must do more to ensure our nation's veterans make a successful transition to civilian life. In this regard, the Military Coalition applauds and supports the Dept. of Veterans Affairs campaign to eliminate veteran homelessness within five years.

In our collective view, the best way to eliminate veteran homelessness is to prevent it in the first place. Our nation's defenders deserve every opportunity to succeed in the marketplace as they have on the battlefield. H.R. 3813 would permit our veterans to receive Post-9/11 educational benefits at any authorized post-secondary institution of higher learning that offers vocational, job-related or educational programs.

The Military Coalition thanks you for your steadfast support of our service men and women and veterans and we urge that you become a cosponsor of H.R. 3813 and do all you can to see the bill enacted this year.

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