



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

May 14, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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 concern over implementation of Section 705, HR 2647, FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Public Law 111-84.

TMC is extremely grateful to Congress for inclusion of Section 705 in the FY 2010 NDAA. This provision authorizes TRICARE Standard healthcare coverage for Gray Area reservists who are qualified for reserve retirement but are not yet 60 years of age. After passage of Section 705, Public Law 111-84, The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (OSD-HA) and TMA reported that the goal for implementation was 1 OCT 2010.

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 and Iraq, or recent natural disasters. As more of our National Guard and Reserve Component service members are called to duty, 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 to make enormous sacrifices that take them away from their families, communities and civilian careers more and more frequently. Congress recognized their importance in adopting Section 705 in the FY 2010 NDAA.

TMC understands that a proposed interim final rule has been completed and in the process of transmittal to OMB for approval, and asks your assistance in urging OMB to expedite approval of this non-controversial initiative so we can deliver this important benefit to our deserving Gray Area Reserve members in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
Signatures attached

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.
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