



July 19, 2021

The Honorable Andy Kim  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Trent Kelly  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kim and Representative Kelly:

The Military Coalition (TMC) represents more than 5.5 million service members, retirees, veterans, their families, and survivors. One of our top priorities is to enhance TRICARE benefits for the Reserve Component because access to affordable health care is critical to readiness. Thank you for sponsoring H.R. 3512, the Healthcare for Our Troops Act, which would provide medical and dental care to Selected Reserve servicemembers at no out-of-pocket cost.

The National Guard and Reserve play critical roles in our national defense and emergency response missions. In just the last year, Reserve Component servicemembers have been activated to respond to wildfires, natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, civil disturbances, and overseas operations. Our nation relies on the Reserve Component, yet Selected Reserve servicemembers lack a health care benefit to maintain their medical and dental readiness.

TRICARE coverage with no out-of-pocket costs would provide continuity of care for injuries and illnesses rather than cycling reservists between health care providers based on duty status. It would also be a recruiting and retention tool for the Reserve Component. Perhaps most importantly, it would provide health care for the approximately 130,000 Selected Reservists who don't have private health insurance.

This bill addresses two additional TRICARE parity issues for the Reserve Component. It provides National Guard and Reserve "gray area" retirees who receive early retirement pay due to deployment credits the same TRICARE benefit as all other military retirees. It also accelerates the fix for Reserve Component members who are also Federal employees by eliminating the statutory language that excludes Federal Employee Health Benefits Program eligible servicemembers from TRICARE Reserve Select eligibility. Fixing these clear and unacceptable inequities in TRICARE eligibility are top priority goals for TMC and we thank you for addressing them with the Healthcare for Our Troops Act.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for all you do to support military families.

Sincerely,

Jack Du Teil  
President,  
The Military Coalition  
See attached list of organizations

Organizations of The Military Coalition:

Air Force Association (AFA)

American Veterans (AMVETS)

Association of the Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)

Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)

Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)

Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)

Iraq Afghanistan Veterans Association (IAVA)

Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)

Marine Corps League (MCL)

Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)

Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MPOH)

National Military Family Association (NMFA)

Reserve Officers Association (ROA)

Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)

United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)

USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Vets First, United Spinal Association (VetsFirst)

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)