



May 7, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairmen, Veterans' Affairs Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Ranking Member, Veterans' Affairs Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Takano  
Chairmen, Veterans' Affairs Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Philip Roe  
Ranking Member, Veterans' Affairs Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Moran and Takano and Ranking Member Tester and Roe:

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members, veterans, and their families and survivors, wishes to express its appreciation for the work Congress did to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 to the Armed Forces. We are concerned about unintended impacts on service members and families, particularly those in the midst of a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move when DoD's late March stop movement order was implemented and now extended to June 30.

We know that during this unique situation the burden of paying two lease or mortgage payments is the foremost priority of their debt. We have been made aware that there is also an issue with Servicemembers being charged multiple service contracts such as utilities for two locations and this is also causing a financial burden for approximately 120,000 servicemembers under a stop movement order.

To better understand the most acute challenges facing military families today, COVID-19 Military Support Initiative (CMSI) Pain Points Poll is conducting an ongoing survey of military families (currently serving and veterans) which began on March 18. The poll results in week 5 showed that 32 percent of military families reported that they are or will be facing two housing payments in the next 60 days.

Having to maintain two domiciles also affects National Guard and Reserve servicemembers activated for COVID-19 support. The week 6 poll results showed that 25 percent of military family respondents report their service member is currently deployed, has been activated to respond to the crisis, or their family is living apart. By May 6 there were 63,000+ Active, National Guard and Reserve personnel supporting COVID relief.

It is widely believed that the Servicemember Civil Relief Act (SCRA) does not provide legal recourse under COVID-19 restrictions or deployments for service members maintaining two

domiciles to get out of a rental agreements or service contracts. We request that the SCRA, Title 50 U.S.C. §3955, *Termination of residential or motor vehicle leases* and Title 50 U.S.C. §3956, *Termination of telephone, multichannel video programming, and internet access service contracts* be updated to provide protection to servicemembers financially burdened by this current situation that is clearly out of their control.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and all the hard work Congress has endured during these unprecedented times. We stand ready to work with Congress to ensure servicemembers and their families are protected as they remain DoD's most important asset.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Du Teil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jack Du Teil  
President  
The Military Coalition

See attached list of associations

Air Force Association (AFA)  
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)  
Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)  
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)  
American Veterans (AMVETS)  
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)  
Chief Warrant & Warrant Officers Association, USCG (CWOAUSCG)  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service (COA)  
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV)  
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)  
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)  
National Military Family Association (NMFA)  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)  
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)  
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)  
Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)  
US Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)  
United States Coast Guard Petty Officer Association and Enlisted Association (USCGPOA)  
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)  
VetsFirst