



National Military and Veterans Alliance
5535 Hempstead Way, Springfield, VA 22151
Phone: (703) 750-1342 ext. 1008
Fax: (703) 354-4380

December 4, 2009

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Howard McKeon
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Public Law 111-84, Title VII, Section 705, the FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Act: TRICARE Reserve Select coverage for "Gray Area" Guard and Reserve retirees who are qualified for retirement but not yet age 60.

Dear Chairman Skelton and Ranking Member McKeon:

The National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA), representing 31 military and veterans associations with a combined membership of over 3.5 million members, is seriously concerned about recent reports of delay in the implementation of the above referenced matter.

Officials at the Department of Defense Health Affairs (DoD/HA) recently informed members of NMVA that implementation of the "Gray Area" provisions would take 12 to 18 months to complete. The lack of urgency DoD/HA demonstrates is unacceptable, especially since the provisions are self-funding and those who would be eligible have served with honor and are still subject to recall.

Accordingly, NMVA respectfully requests your timely oversight of this matter to ensure DoD/HA expedites action to complete and enact the law, especially after your hard work to approve this expression of the nation's gratitude. Additionally, DoD/HA should provide answers as to why National Guard and Reserve Members and their families, after their long service and sacrifices, are being treated in this shabby manner.

The National Military and Veterans Alliance thanks you for your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to working with you to honor our service members and their families. If you have questions please contact NMVA Reserve Forces Committee co-chairs, Ike Puzon at (703) 548-5800 or Marshall Hanson at (703) 750-1342.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deirdre Parke Holloman".

Deirdre M. Parke-Holloman
Co-Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Jones".

Richard A. Jones
Co-Director



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- American Logistics Association
- American Military Retirees Association
- American Military Society
- American Retirees Association
- American WWII Orphans Network
- AMVETS (American Veterans)
- Armed Forces Marketing Council
- Army Navy Union
- Association of the United States Navy
- Catholic War Veterans
- Gold Star Wives of America
- Japanese American Veterans Association
- Korean War Veterans Foundation
- Legion of Valor
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Military Order of Foreign Wars
- Military Order of the World Wars
- National Association for Uniformed Services
- National Gulf War Resource Center
- Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Reserve Enlisted Association
- Reserve Officers Association
- Society of Military Widows
- The Retired Enlisted Association
- TREA Senior Citizen League
- Tragedy Assistant Program for Survivors
- Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees
- Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
- Vietnam Veterans of America
- Women in Search of Equity