



# 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

December 3, 2009

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Comm.  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

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

Dear Chairman Levin and Chairman Skelton:

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 deep concern over implementation of Section 705 of the FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), P.L. 111-84.

TMC is extremely grateful to you and your Committees 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.

However, TMC is disappointed to learn that the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD (HA) reports that it may take up to 18 months to implement this critical provision. This is unacceptable for those who have served with honor and are still subject to recall during these times of increased utilization.

TMC requests that you ask Secretary Gates to implement the provision expeditiously. We believe a 6 month window is reasonable and achievable.

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 overseas, 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 NDAA.

The Military Coalition applauds the passage of Gray Area TRICARE and asks for your support towards its implementation as soon as possible.

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  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States