

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2011

The Honorable John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon
Room 3E700
Washington, DC 20310-0101

General Craig McKinley
Chief of the National Guard Bureau
The Pentagon 1E157
NGB 1636 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1636

Dear Secretary McHugh and General McKinley:

We are writing in support of National Guard outreach and reintegration programs operated in eight states throughout the country which are set to expire. We encourage you to find the necessary funding for these programs through Fiscal Year 2011 and develop a strategy for continuing their operation in future years.

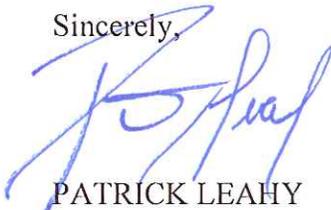
Our states currently operate outreach programs which go beyond the nationwide Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and provide critical services to National Guard members and their families. These programs ensure Guard families have access to information regarding physical and behavioral health care, substance abuse treatment and prevention, and marriage and financial counseling services which make a difference for a Guard member's successful reintegration following a deployment.

We respectfully ask that the Army and National Guard work together to find the additional funding necessary to allow the programs in Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Colorado, Washington and Minnesota to operate through the remainder of FY 2011.

Finally, given the evidence which has shown the tremendous success of these state programs, we ask that the Army and National Guard develop a proposal to continue these programs beyond FY 2011 in the eight states where they currently exist and expand the program to additional states and territories. We ask that this proposal be sent to the signatories of this letter as well as the Chair and Ranking members of the relevant committees in the Senate and House of Representatives as well as the co-chairs of the National Guard Caucus in both chambers.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator

KELLY A. AYOTTE
United States Senator

MICHAEL F. BENNET
United States Senator

MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator

AL FRANKEN
United States Senator

AMY KLOBUCHAR
United States Senator

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
United States Senator

ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator

JEFFREY A. MERKLEY
United States Senator

PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator

MARK UDALL
United States Senator

RON WYDEN
United States Senator

CHARLES BASS
Member of Congress

EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress

G.K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress

PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress



FRANK GUINTA
Member of Congress



LARRY KISSELL
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress



BILL PASCRELL JR
Member of Congress



COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress



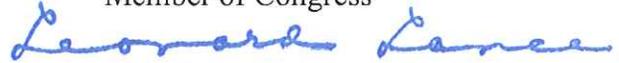
JON RUNYAN
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress



LEONARD LANCE
Member of Congress



FRANK LOBIONDO
Member of Congress



BRAD MILLER
Member of Congress



ED PERLMUTTER
Member of Congress



DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress



KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress



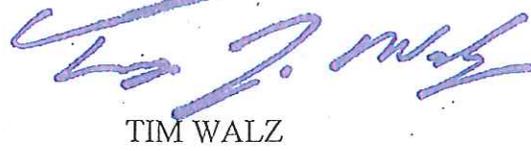
HEATH SHULER
Member of Congress



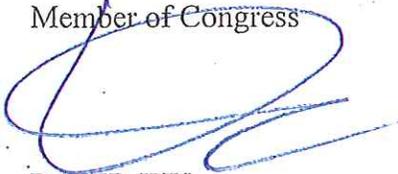
ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



CHRIS SMITH
Member of Congress



TIM WALZ
Member of Congress



DAVID WU
Member of Congress



RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress



MIKE MCINTYRE
Member of Congress



STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
Member of Congress

cc: GEN George W Casey Jr, Chief of Staff of the Army
MG Raymond W Carpenter, Director of the Army National Guard (Acting)
Senator Daniel Inouye, Chairman Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Thad Cochran, Ranking Member Senate Appropriations Committee
Representative Hal Rogers, Chairman House Appropriations Committee
Representative Norm Dicks, Ranking Member House Appropriations Committee
Senator Carl Levin, Chairman Senate Armed Services Committee
Senator John McCain, Ranking Member Senate Armed Services Committee
Representative Buck McKeon, Chairman House Armed Services Committee
Representative Adam Smith, Ranking Member House Armed Services Committee