

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



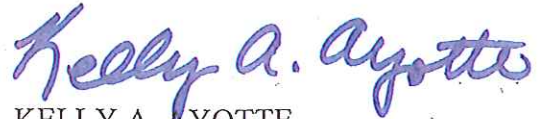
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United States Senator



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Member of Congress



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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



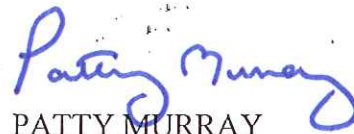
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United States Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



JEFFREY A. MERKLEY
United States Senator



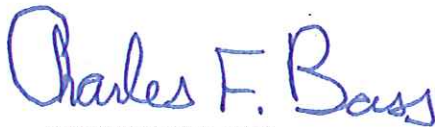
PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator



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United States Senator



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CHARLES BASS
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EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



G.R. BUTTERFIELD
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PETER DEFAZIO
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DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress



FRANK GUINTA
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LARRY KISSELL
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RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



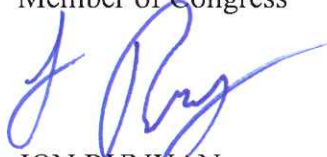
BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress



BILL PASCRELL JR
Member of Congress



COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress



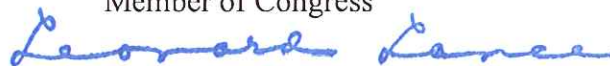
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KEITH ELLISON
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JAY INSLEE
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LEONARD LANCE
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FRANK LOBIONDO
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BRAD MILLER
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ED PERLMUTTER
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KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress



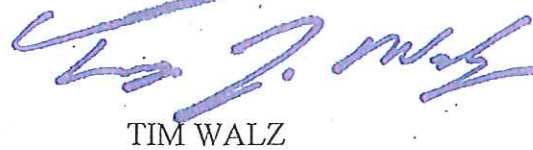
HEATH SHULER
Member of Congress



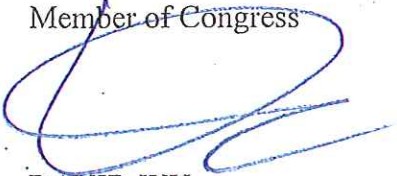
ALBIO SIRES
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TIM WALZ
Member of Congress



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