

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

October 24, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

I write you today to express my deepest concern regarding the immediate needs of America's veterans and guards members.

At the height of the military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan, the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and Department of the Army offered tempting bonuses for extending service contracts. In California alone, over 14,000 servicemembers took those benefits, not knowing that any of the offers were made inappropriately. Now the NGB and Army are going after these men and women to recoup those funds, plus interest, without any way of returning what the soldiers gave up in exchange for the bonus – years of their lives.

While I urge the NGB and Army to cease collection efforts of “false debts” immediately, a true solution to this problem will take legislative action. Therefore, I request that you allow the House of Representatives to take up a solution as soon as we return in November, so that we can come together to help these veterans. Every day we wait exposes veterans and their families to hardship that is beyond their control.

Urgently,



Scott Peters
Member of Congress