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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

FLOYD D. SPENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAIRMAN

May 17, 2000

ANDREW K. ELLIS, STAFF DIRECTOR

SUSTAINING THE QUALITY OF OUR MILITARY FORCES

SUPPORT H.R. 4205, THE DOD AUTHORIZATION BILL

Dear Colleague:

The recruiting and retention problems confronting the military threaten our ability to sustain the readiness of the all-volunteer force. All of the services have incurred damaging losses among pockets of highly qualified, experienced personnel and there is increasing evidence that military pay is inadequate to provide an attractive quality life to families. In the last two years, active and reserve components of the Army, Navy, and Air Force have failed to meet recruiting goals, and retention within the Navy and Air Force threaten the future viability of those services.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, includes a wide range of policy and compensation initiatives that comprehensively address the concerns of our men and women in uniform. These initiatives include:

- 3.7 percent pay raise.
- Accelerates reduction in out-of-pocket housing costs.
- Targets supplemental food allowance to most needy.
- Increases minimum housing standard for young families.
- Authorizes use of military Thrift Savings Plan.
- Reduces out-of-pocket moving costs for young families.
- Adds 650 active Navy personnel, mostly recruiters.
- Boosts recruiting and retention funding by \$217 million.

These initiatives represent a bi-partisan effort by the House Armed Services Committee to improve retention of military members and their families. We urge you to vote "YES" on H.R. 4205.



Steve Buyer
Chairman
Military Personnel Subcommittee



Neil Abercrombie
Ranking Democrat
Military Personnel Subcommittee