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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

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SUPPORT INCREASED PERSONNEL STRENGTH IN OUR ACTIVE, NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE MILITARY FORCES

VOTE "YES" ON H.R. 4546, THE DOD AUTHORIZATION BILL

Dear Colleague:

Each of the military services entered the war on terrorism with personnel shortages – a situation that has been aggravated by the operational requirements of the war. New missions, new demands, and new challenges have increased the already high operations and personnel tempos of both the active and reserve components already stretched thin by longstanding manpower deficiencies.

H.R. 4546, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 directly addresses these shortfalls by:

- Increasing Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps active duty strength by 12,650 personnel above 2002 levels – the largest single-year increase since 1986;
- Adding more than 2,450 full-time military personnel to support the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve;
- Increasing Naval Reserve unit strength by 800 part-time military personnel, and
- Adding nearly \$590 million to support the increased manning.

These initiatives are a bi-partisan effort to improve retention of highly qualified military personnel and their families. We urge you to vote "YES" on H.R. 4546.

Sincerely,


John McHugh
Chairman
Military Personnel Subcommittee


Vic Snyder
Ranking Member
Military Personnel Subcommittee