



National Lieutenant Governors Association

Resolution to Establish a National Military Family Relief Fund

WHEREAS, United States Servicemembers, especially National Guard members and reservists, often face a significant salary reduction when called upon to serve our country; and

WHEREAS, a recent study shows that 55 percent of married National Guard members and reservists report a loss of income over their civilian jobs when they are called to active duty, and 15 percent experience a pay cut of \$30,000 a year or more; and

WHEREAS, National Guard members and reservists serving in the Global War on Terrorism make up a larger percentage of frontline fighting forces than in any other war in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, all military families deserve thanks and recognition for their sacrifices, and helping to ease the financial pressure that challenge so many of America's finest families must be a top priority; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Congressman Bill Foster (IL-14) has introduced House Resolution 5941, legislation designed to provide relief for military families that would allow taxpayers to contribute to a National Military Family Relief Fund by filling in a voluntary donation in a "check-off box" on federal income tax forms; and

WHEREAS, the individually determined donation for the National Military Family Relief Fund would be added to the supporter's tax bill or deducted from a rebate allowing U.S. citizens to support military families without placing any extra burden on the federal budget; and

WHEREAS, all Servicemembers and veterans who are serving, or have served, in Iraq or Afghanistan or other regions of service would be eligible for grants from the National Military Family Relief Fund; and

WHEREAS, Military Family Relief Funds have already been introduced or established in at least 27 states with citizens, corporations and community organizations proving an eagerness to lend a helping hand by generously donating to military families in need; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Lieutenant Governors Association urges Congress to approve H.R. 5941 to establish a National Military Family Relief Fund and create a simple and cost-effective way for taxpayers to lend a helping hand to military families in need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent by the NLGA to the President of the United States, Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the U.S. Senate, and that NLGA make all state elected officials aware of passage of the resolution through a notice in StateNews magazine, and that NLGA further post the full text of the resolution to its web page making the resolution available at all times for all NLGA members, state elected officials, and other interested parties.

Introduced this 20th day of June, 2008.

Sponsored by: Lt. Governor Pat Quinn (D-IL)

Co – Sponsors:

Lt. Governor Catherine Baker Knoll (D-PA)

Lt. Governor Jari Askins (D – OK)

Lt. Governor Patty Judge (D – IA)

Lt. Governor Mark Parkinson (D – KS)

Lt. Governor Bill Halter (D – AR)

Lt. Governor Dennis Daugaard (R – SD)

Lt. Governor Gregory Francis (D – USVI)

Lt. Governor Tim Murray (D – MA)

Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez (R – CNMI)

Lt. Governor John Bohliner (R – MT)

Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton (D – WI)