

Dear House Committee of Veteran Affairs,

I am writing this letter as I am in support of House Bill No. 7184. As a retired military member and veteran who currently works with this community. I can not tell you how many times I get contacted asking for assistance from military spouses. This bill will be so helpful to the spouses and families since we have an active duty military base in Newport and many National Guard/ Reserve units in RI that would benefit from this. We are also located very close to the active duty military bases in Connecticut and many of those families end up living in RI.

I do feel strongly that this job should be filled by a qualified current military spouse of an active duty service member or national guard/ reserve member who is an Active Guard /Reserve or traditional status. If there are no applicants qualified in this group of applicants, it should be filled by a qualified veteran or spouse of a veteran. I feel one of the qualifications should be having prior experience and knowledge of all the programs and resources for military spouses and dependents in the area.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Roger Richards Jr.
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