



September 3, 2021

The Honorable Antonio Delgado
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Delgado,

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of organizations representing 5.5 million servicemembers, veterans, their families and survivors, writes to express our support for the *Military Spouse Hiring Act* (H.R. 2974). This bill would create a target group within the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for employers who hire military spouses and provide a proven economic boost for their communities.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Defense (DoD) reported a 22 percent unemployment rate among military spouses, which had remained stagnant since 2012¹. Employers have expressed concern that hiring and training military spouses who may move within a few years is not cost effective for their companies. We believe expanding WOTC to include a military spouse target group would provide a multi-pronged approach to incentivize employers to tap into a talented pool of potential employees, while also tackling the extreme unemployment rate of military spouses.

While millions of Americans have lost employment as a result of the pandemic, military spouses started at an extraordinary deficit prior to the pandemic. Thirty-four percent of military spouses who were previously employed lost their jobs due to the pandemic, resulting in a loss of personal and family income.² Although these figures may have improved as the economy has reopened and more Americans have been vaccinated, military family economic recovery remains an uphill battle.

We appreciate your commitment to those who have served, continue to serve, and their families and survivors. In addition to our support for the *Military Spouse Hiring Act*, TMC stands ready to continue working with you to encourage strong workforce participation and economic resiliency.

Sincerely,

Jack Du Teil
President,
The Military Coalition

See attached list of organizations

¹ https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Surveys/ADSS1901_MOS-Briefing-508-Revised.pdf

² <https://www.militaryfamily.org/wp-content/uploads/Military-Families-During-the-Covid-19-Pandemic.pdf>

Air Force Association (AFA)
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service (COA)
Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)
Marine Corps League (MCL)
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)
Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)
The Enlisted Association (TREA)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
VetsFirst
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)