



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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February 24, 2012

The Honorable John Kline
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Kline:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and our Auxiliaries we are pleased to offer our support for H.R. 4045, your bill that would exempt members of the reserve components who were mobilized before October 1, 2011 from the changes to the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence Program (PDMRA) that took place on that day.

PDMRA allows those members who are deployed between 12-24 months to accrue additional leave, allowing them to spend more time with their families. After 12 months, one extra day of leave per month is earned with additional days earned the longer the deployment lasts. This program is important for the morale and well-being of military personnel.

On September 30th of last year, the Department of Defense created new guidelines significantly reducing the number of PDMRA days that can be accrued. Despite taking no stance on the new guidelines, the VFW wishes that they don't affect those who were already deployed. H.R. 4045 aims to exempt those who were deployed before the new guidelines took place. We have an obligation to our armed forces not to back down on promises that were made to them.

Thank you for your support of our armed forces. We appreciate your efforts in improving the lives of our servicemen and women who continually sacrifice so much for our nation.

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Kelly, Director
VFW National Legislative Service