

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

March 27, 2012

Colonel Eric Kerska  
Commander, 1/34th Brigade Combat Team  
HHC 1/34 HBCT  
APO AE 09366

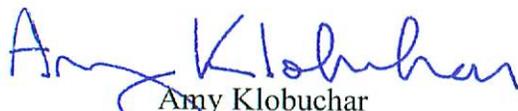
Dear Colonel Kerska:

We have heard concerns from several members of Minnesota's 1/34<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team about the recent Department of Defense (DOD) changes to the Post Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence (PDMRA) program. We want you to know that we share your concerns and will continue to make every effort to ensure the changes do not impact the Red Bulls.

As you know, on September 30, 2011, the DOD changed the PDMRA program to reduce the amount of leave days eligible soldiers may receive. Like you, we believe changing the benefits of those currently deployed is unacceptable. That is why we have introduced legislation in the Senate and House of Representatives that would require the DOD to only apply the new PDMRA policy changes to units that deployed after October 1, 2011. This would ensure that all units deployed before the change was announced, including the Red Bulls, would receive the leave they were promised when they mobilized. We have also written to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and spoken to Army Secretary John McHugh urging them to ensure the new policy grandfathers units like the Red Bulls who were already mobilized and deployed. This would ensure the Red Bulls can return home to the leave they were promised.

One of the most important parts of our job is listening to our constituents, and we are here in our nation's capital to do the public's business and to serve the people of our state. Again, we appreciate hearing from the 1/34<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team about this critical issue and will continue to work on your behalf to resolve it.

Sincerely,

  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

  
John Kline  
United States Representative