

# NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES



## LEGISLATIVE ALERT

November 9, 2005

**To: The Adjutants General, Executive Directors, Presidents and CACOs**

**The Issue:** House support for TRICARE 'Dear Colleague' letter

### **Additional Immediate Action Required**

TRICARE access for all members of the National Guard will soon be decided. Within the next week, members of the House will be appointed to participate in the defense authorization conference. **We are entering the 11th hour.** Over the next few weeks, we will be asking you to contact your member of Congress, asking him/her to support you and your fellow Guard members in providing everyone the chance to participate in TRICARE. Even if you made calls or e-mailed in the past few months, it is critical that you do it again and again as we make a final push for this necessary coverage. **Check for new alerts every day.**

Representative Tom Latham (R-IA) has been our House champion, sponsoring the original TRICARE legislation, H.R. 558. Once again, he needs our support. Representative Latham is asking his colleagues in the House to co-sign a letter to the House Armed Services Committee Chairman and Ranking Member, in support of expanded TRICARE coverage. Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Representative Gene Taylor (D-MS) have already joined with Mr. Latham.

They need your help to urge support from all House members to sign that 'Dear Colleague' letter.

### **PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION IMMEDIATELY:**

Contact your Congressman/Woman and ask them to sign on to the 'Dear Colleague' being circulated by Representative Tom Latham (R-IA), Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Representative Gene Taylor (D-MS). We need to take care of our Guardsmen and their families and TRICARE for all is something that does just that. With strong grassroots efforts our total NGAUS team can get it passed this year.

### **USE "Write to Congress"**

By using "Write to Congress" that can be accessed from the NGAUS web page [www.ngaus.org](http://www.ngaus.org) you can contact your Congressional Members directly via e-mail and send a pre written message immediately by entering your zip code in the available space provided. It's quick and simple and will let them know that the people that keep them in elected office expect them to act when called upon. The time is right now for Congress to support those Guardsmen and women and their families with a full service health plan to go along with the full-time duty our Guard and Reserve Forces are and will continue to perform.

Please call Michele Traficante on the NGAUS Legislative Staff Toll Free at 1- 888 226-4287 with any questions.