



March 23, 2017

The Honorable Robert Wittman
United States House of Representatives
2055 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy, we would like to pledge our support for H.R. 578, the Military Residency Choice Act. This bill amends the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to permit the spouse of a servicemember to elect to use the same residence as the servicemember for purposes of taxation and voting, regardless of the date on which the marriage of the spouse and the servicemember occurred.

Under current law, active duty service members are able to maintain one state of legal residency for tax purposes even when they move on military orders. Spouses may be granted the same benefit, but only if both service member and spouse have the same tax residence at the time of their marriage. This causes complications when service members move, sometimes multiple times a year, because spouses are forced to establish residency in each new location.

Despite many military families relying on two incomes, the task of keeping track of multiple tax jurisdictions can be daunting for military spouses, causing some to forego working altogether. According to a recent report, military spouse unemployment could cost the U.S. \$1 billion a year due to the loss of federal income tax, the costs of unemployment benefits, and the costs of health care issues related to unemployment.

The Military Residency Choice Act will allow military spouses, if they so choose, to establish the same state of residency as the service member, so that for any future moves, they will retain the same state for tax and voting purposes.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the Military and Veteran community by working to improve the lives and careers of those who served our great nation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 703-548-5800 or at michael.little@ausn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Joseph Little". To the right of the signature, there is a handwritten note in blue ink that says "ABH (AW/Sea) USNR".

Michael J. Little
Director of Legislative Affairs

