



**VADM Norbert R. Ryan, Jr. USN (Ret)**  
*President*

May 20, 2010

The Honorable Sander Levin  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways & Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Stark  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Levin and Chairman Stark:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 370,000 members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) to express MOAA's strong support for H.R. 4213, the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act.

This legislation would go a long way toward addressing MOAA's top health care priority – eliminating the seemingly monthly threat of major cuts in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors. Such cuts would lead many providers to stop seeing military and Medicare patients.

Eliminating this threat is of overriding importance. The last thing troops in a combat zone should have to worry about is whether their sick spouse or child will be able to find a doctor. H.R. 4213 would take this concern off the table for several years, allowing time to develop an appropriate long-term solution.

MOAA is also grateful that H.R. 4213 includes authority to implement the Administration's proposal to phase out the disability offset to military retired pay for servicemembers forced into premature medical retirement as a result of service-caused disabilities. It is patently inequitable that current law forces these members to fund their own VA disability compensation by forfeiting most or all of their military retired pay. H.R. 4213 properly acknowledges that such members should be vested for retired pay earned by service, independent of any service-caused disability.

We pledge to work with you to secure prompt enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Norbert Ryan'.