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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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October 27, 2016

The Honorable Ash Carter
Secretary
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Carter,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors and the citizens of Solano, we wish to commend you for your prompt action to suspend all efforts by the Department of Defense (DoD) to collect reimbursement from affected California National Guard members who may have improperly received enlistment bonuses and tuition assistance. As you move forward with investigating the issuance of false re-enlistment bonuses and tuition payments, we ask that you forgive any debt accrued by National Guard personnel as a result of misconduct by DoD.

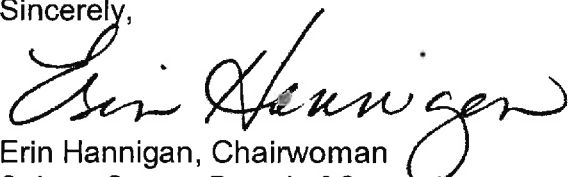
Solano is home to Travis Air Force Base which has approximately 7,000 service members, several Reserve and Guard units, and over thirty-three thousand veterans. Travis AFB is a premier Air Force installation and plays a crucial role in our national defense posture. Solano County takes great pride in the men and women who wear the uniform and we understand the tremendous sacrifices they and their families make in defense of our nation. Frankly, we are appalled that service members and veterans would be forced to shoulder the burden for mistakes made by recruiters over a decade ago.

We are pleased that our elected officials in Congress have been vocal in protecting our National Guard personnel from unwarranted reparations for mistakes made by DoD. In particular, California Congressional Delegates have called for a legislative fix to mitigate the current problem and an administrative waiver from requiring personnel to repay these bonuses. Solano County lauds these efforts, and will support measures that protect our California Guard personnel and provide a course of repayment to those individuals who have already returned these funds.

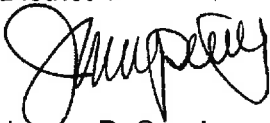
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Thank you again for your decision to suspend repayment of reenlistment bonuses by California Guard personnel, and we appreciate your efforts to put our California Guard Members and their families first.

Sincerely,




Erin Hannigan, Chairwoman
Solano County Board of Supervisors
District 1



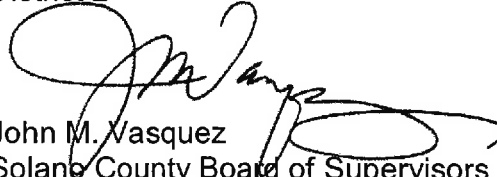
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CC: The Honorable President Barack Obama
The Honorable Senator Diane Feinstein
The Honorable Senator Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Congressman John Garamendi
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