



News Release From . . .

Congressman Rodney Alexander

5th Congressional District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 24, 2006

Contact: Adam Terry
202-225-8490

ALEXANDER DRAFTS LEGISLATION TO HELP MEMBERS OF NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVISTS FIND JOBS

BILL WOULD PROVIDE TAX CREDITS FOR BUSINESSES THAT HIRE SERVICEMEN

Washington, D.C. --U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, has drafted legislation that would provide a tax credit for businesses that hire members of the National Guard and members of our Armed Forces reserve units.

Alexander, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, said that some businesses may be "reluctant" to hire members of the National Guard and reservists because of the possibility of a deployment.

"This is unfair to our brave men and women who are serving in our Armed Services," Alexander said.

"Right now, our world is witnessing a great deal of instability in the Middle East as well as other areas. Our nation relies on the commitment of all of our soldiers who are both on active duty and in the reserves. Those serving in the National Guard/reserves are making a difference in the civilian world as well as in the military. My bill would entice businesses to give strong consideration to those serving our nation in the National Guard/reserves."

Alexander's bill, H.R. 5765 is the National Guard and Reserve Employment Protection Act of 2006, which was recently introduced.

The bill provides a tax credit of up to 15 percent of the employees' salary- up to \$10,000 eligible wages, thereby capped at \$1,500 per employee for an employer who newly hires a member of the National Guard and Ready Reserves of all 4 branches in order to encourage employers to hire those service-people. Also, the bill sunsets on December 31, 2011, providing 5 years of eligible benefits, if enacted this year. Currently, the bill has been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and Alexander will work with members on that committee to get a hearing scheduled on the issue and move the bill along.

###