



Action Alert

**Legislative Alert #112-21: SUPPORT H.R. 6293 and S. 2299, the
Servicemembers Rights Enforcement Act of 2012
VETERANS**

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Issue Background: Servicemembers face a significant amount of anxiety and undue worry while deployed. Adding to the stress of performing basic military duties abroad, servicemembers must also account for their personal and financial obligations stateside. These non-military stresses should be minimized as much as possible. Thankfully, the current Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) helps to provide much needed help and relief for our men and women in uniform. However, within the past several years these laws have been violated in a troubling number of cases. Servicemembers who served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) are now returning home to find their previous jobs either filled or done away with all together and their houses under foreclosure. Compounding the issue is the fact that many of the servicemembers and veterans facing these situations are also being targeted by fraudulent and deceitful creditors.

Action Required: Contact your Representatives and Senators and urge them to co-sponsor and support the Service Members Rights Enforcement Act of 2012, in the forms of H.R. 6293, introduced by Representative John Garamendi (D-CA-10), and S. 2299, introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA). Both bills would amend USERRA and title 38, United States Code (USC), to improve the provision of civil relief to members of the uniformed services and to improve the enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of such members.

Details (To Be Put Into Letter):

Servicemembers who served multiple tours of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) have been returning home to find their previous jobs either filled or done away with, houses under foreclosure and facing situations where they are being targeted by fraudulent and deceitful creditors. As the days of the 112th Congress grow shorter and shorter, it is imperative that both the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVA) and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVA) consider the large amount of veteran centric legislation awaiting deliberation, which includes these bills.

The introduction of the Service Members Rights Enforcement Act of 2012, in the forms of H.R. 6293 and S. 2299, seeks to continue to assist all those who serve and address concerns with Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) violations. These bills would increase the enforcement of USERRA and SCRA and by strengthening the Department of Justice's (DOJ) ability to enforce these laws on behalf of servicemembers and veterans. Passage of H.R. 6293 and S. 2299 would grant DOJ the authority to better investigate, deter and punish violators of USERRA and SCRA; specifically, doubling the penalties for SCRA violators and would allow the United States to serve as a plaintiff in all USERRA suits filed by the Attorney General. The bills would also protect servicemembers from predatory debt practices, discriminatory actions in the workplace and unfair home foreclosures.

Our servicemembers have given much in service of their country and these bills would help ease their transition and uphold their rights and protections under USERRA and SCRA and should receive immediate legislative consideration.

Take Action: Click the "Take Action" link at the top of the Alert to immediately email and/or write to your Senators and Representatives. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. You can also write and/or e-mail the 'Details' section or edit as you desire for a more personalized communication. Also, contact friends and family and urge them to use the Contact Congress feature on AUSN's website as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to our Director of Legislation, Anthony Wallis, at 703-548-5800 or at Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org.