

DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is the pattern of coercive behavior that involves physical abuse or the threat of

Physical abuse. It also may include repeated psychosocial abuse, assault, progressive social isolation, deprivation, intimidation, or economic coercion.

IS THERE REALLY A PROBLEM WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE MILITARY...?

The rate of spousal abuse in the U.S. Military is significantly higher than the national average, and the military routinely fails to punish service members convicted of even extreme cases of domestic violence.

THE MILITARY HAS A DOMESTIC violence problem—or, as the Army calls it, a “spousal aggression issue. This seems somewhat suspicious. The Defense Department doesn’t break down pre- and post-deployment figures, but the fact is that rates of domestic violence in the military have been high for years—two to five times higher than among civilians, depending on which study is consulted.

State Attorney General’s Office Verification That The Military Spouse Is A Victim of Crime

Dear Ms. Mills:

First, let me thank you for your long service to our nation as an Army Spouse. There are few better spokespersons for true personal sacrifice than our Army Spouses and Family Members, especially in this time of war -

I heard a Member of Congress say the other day, "The nation is not at war, but the military is..." and bearing the brunt of the home front and the frequent deployments are our Army Families. Also, I regret your marriages is ending as it is; I hope you are doing well, personally.

I wish you the best for rapid resolution of this challenge.

Sincerely,

Tony Cucolo, Brigadier General, US Army



Kathleen. Mills, MS Ed. is petitioning Congress to Leave No Military Spouse Behind. She, like so many other military spouses, with over 20 years of marriage, may find themselves not meeting the 20/20/20 rule—20 years of marriage with 20 years of overlapping military service within the marriage. As the Divorce Editor of militaryfamilies.com, Mrs. Mills receives letters from Spouses that lose their life-time benefits at divorce by weeks. Join Mrs. Mills Campaign to petition Congress, to realize the contribution made by the long-term military spouse. Now is the time to be heard as ONE VOICE.

Mrs. Mills can be reached at Kathy@kathleenmills.com

“What we do in life,
Echoes in Eternity”

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Leave No Military
Spouse Behind Act



Leave No Military Spouse Behind Act



PETITION FOR CONGRESS :

To provide Legal Justice, Medical Services and Economic Equity for Military Spouses.

Congress



War Crimes On the Home Front

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

THE FACTS STATED

Fact: Less than 7% of Military members are Court Martial for Domestic Violence. Less than that in the Guard.

Fact: Commander Discretion plays a major role in determining the Court Martial. Guard Commanders are not schooled as Judges or Social workers. They are not equipped to determine Domestic Violence Issues.

Fact: To tie a Military Spouse Victim's Medical benefits to her husbands Court Martial, and service separation is unfair. A Court of Law/Victims of Crime Program are better suited to determine Domestic Violence.

Fact: Military/Guard Spouses live in a Civilian World. They seek Civilian Remedies for Domestic Violence. These Civilian Remedies should be valid and accepted by the DoD, when they seek out their long term Medical Benefits under the Former Spouse Protection Act.

Fact: The Military is recognizing and compensating Soldiers for Mental health War Casualties. The soldiers spouse who served and was discarded by her soldier due to his service related mental health issues is no less in need for on-going Medical Treatment. The spouse has become a Casualty of this War.

Fact: With 450,000 Guard troops having been deployed, and 60,000 divorces to date . Domestic Violence has become a huge factor.

Fact: As Congress attempts to help by amending the Federal Former Spouse Protection Act, they must be aware of the Long-term Guard spouse's need for Medical benefits in the event of Domestic Violence/divorce.

AMENDMENTS NEEDED TO THE FORMER SPOUSE PROTECTION ACT

Necessary Amendments that must be made to protect Military/Guard Spouses in the event of Domestic Violence.

Spouse victims that have as qualifying verification should be allowed to divorce and still receive full benefits to include medical/dental.

Spouse victims may have as qualifying verification :

1. Civilian Court Final Order of Civil Protection due to Domestic Violence against the member.
2. Divorce Decree with accepted Grounds of Domestic violence.
3. Letter from State Attorney General's Office Victims of Crime Program.

Any one of the above verifying documents could be accepted in place of a service member's court marshal and removal from the military.

According to the Symposium on Domestic Violence, less than 7% of spouse abuse cases are adjudicated by Court Martial. Less than 1% are for the National Guard.

Change of Divorce Venue

In addition, the abused military spouse would have the one time option, as under Full Faith and Credit, to allow her to change her Divorce Venue to the Court of her Final Civil protection Order. This would be regardless if she were the Plaintiff or Defendant. Relocation to a home base is generally what happens.

A Domestic Relations Court that has issued a full Civil Protection Order is best suited it to ensure a safe Divorce.

Now of these requests would harm the Service Member. In fact they would protect the Military Service Member, as the member would not have to separate from the service, in order for the abused spouse to be afforded protection and long term health care.

I agree with Mrs. Mills, as indicated by my signature below.

I understand I am requesting congress to sign into being an Act to provide Medical/Economic/Legal Equity for the Military Spouse.

I understand my signature will go before Congress.

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