

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 11, 2015

The Honorable Richard O. Wightman, Jr.
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Reserve Affairs
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Wightman:

Thank you for your office's support for National Guard and Reserve outreach and reintegration programs. As you are aware, the Senate Appropriation Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2016 Defense Appropriations bill on June 11, 2015. This bill included \$20 million for Beyond Yellow Ribbon programs, which was one of my top priorities. I want to draw your attention to this support as it represents the Senate's commitment to ensuring that these critical programs with strong records of success are funded.

Beyond Yellow Ribbon programs provide community-based outreach services that coordinate State and local resources into a single network to offer critical support to soldiers returning from deployment, including substance abuse treatment, mental health, suicide prevention, employment services, educational assistance, military sexual assault referrals, health care, marriage and financial counseling and services. These programs have helped thousands of servicemembers, veterans and their family members cope with the challenges associated with deployments and military service.

New Hampshire's Care Coordination Program (CCPNH) has achieved significant outcomes in areas including suicide prevention, access to mental health care, homelessness prevention, and access to employment for veterans. CCPNH has already supported more than 270 servicemembers in navigating the pre-deployment process this year in order to enhance readiness of members of the New Hampshire National Guard for deployment overseas. Therefore, it is critical to continue the support for Beyond Yellow Ribbon programs such as CCPNH as the needs of our men and women in uniform and their families for outreach and reintegration services continue to increase.

We look forward to working with you to continue to ensure these programs receive your full support. Thank you for your commitment to National Guard and Reserve servicemembers and their families.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator