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ACTION!

FOR FORMER MILITARY WIVES

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Mrs. Elizabeth Dole
Special Assistant on Womens Affairs
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Dole;

As president of a west coast chapter of "ACTION-For Former Military Wives" I am writing this letter with the thought and hope that you can and will exert whatever influence you have, as Special Assistant on Womens Affairs, to bring to President Reagan's attention the plight of the former military wife. I have spoken with at least five hundred women and I can assure you that the situation is alarming. I understand there are more than 100,000 women in our organization and I presume that there are at least that many in EXPOSE as well as smaller groups and others. So you can see, there is a rather large segment of women. We desperately need your support and in-put to the president to ensure passage of Senator Jepson's bill, S 1814.

The repercussions since the June 1981 Supreme Court/McCarty decision have been disastrous and far-reaching for thousands of women. Many are forced to move into sub-standard housing. Appliances, furniture and even clothing has been sold to pay current expenses. The bitterest pill of all is HAVING TO GO ON WELFARE. Women with eighteen year olds still at home continue to feel a mother's responsibility to them, and many work at two jobs for minimum wages to support them. Women are forced to sell their homes in order to pay the husband his share of equity even though they can't rent the meanest quarters for the cost of the house payments. Then there are the attorney bills!

Now our husbands have gone on to higher paying careers and greater amenities of living...which we had looked forward to sharing. Instead, we have been abandoned at an age when it is impossible to start a career that will insure us financial security. Furthermore, the stress, trauma and heartbreak of these divorces has left many women with cancer, heart attacks, arthritis, etc., especially those women past fifty years of age. In no case can we afford health insurance. To compound the inequity of this situation, there is a strong possibility, if DOD has its way, that if we should decide to remarry at some point in time down the line, that this hard-earned income would cease, as a community property asset, while the former spouse continues on his merry way.

Last but not least, the primary concern on the part of DOD is that a security problem will be created due to the loss of many military men in the event that the Jepson bill is passed. This is PURE HOG WASH!! Why didn't they do a poll from already retired military personnel for a more valid, rational approach to this tentative problem as opposed to polling current personnel?? The primary reason for loss of personnel in critical MOS fields is due to the inability of the military pay structure to stay in line with private industrial sector.

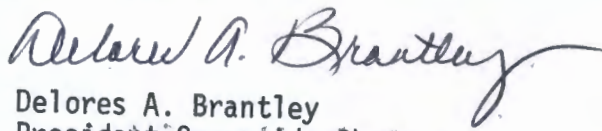
ACTION!

FOR FORMER MILITARY WIVES

DOD's approach to this serious situation denotes an over-all attitude of one that is not only very tunnelled but inhumane as well.

I thank you in advance for the time you have taken out of what must be a very busy schedule to read this letter. Whatever you can do to inform President Reagan of this serious condition will be most appreciated. If REAGANOMICS is the name of the game, I can't think of a better place to start than at HOME-STATE SOVEREIGNTY IN ALL DOMESTIC AFFAIRS!!!

Most sincerely,



Delores A. Brantley
President-Oceanside Chapter
ACTION-For Former Military Wives

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