



Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

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Ms. Kerry Smith
Staff Attorney
Homeownership and Consumer Law Unit
Community Legal Services, Inc.
1424 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Ms. Smith:

I write to inform you of our strong opposition to proposed Amendment 09924 for HB 2191. We have reviewed 09924 and oppose any effort that allows a 369% annual interest rate on a 2-week "payday" loan of \$300. The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society believes this Amendment would be particularly harmful to retired Sailors, Marines, and their families residing in Pennsylvania and living on their military pensions.

Since its inception in 1904, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has worked tirelessly to assist both active duty and retired Marines, Sailors and their families when in need. Our work is critical to the Navy and Marine Corps in helping maintain the highest level of financial readiness. We coordinate our assistance with military commanders and consumer organizations such as yours, to protect military families from the harmful impacts of high-cost consumer finance loans and other predatory lending practices. As you know, military families are particularly vulnerable to high cost lenders. They are frequently new consumers with little credit history, moving regularly and away from the traditional support network of their family and friends. Often spouses must make financial decisions while the service member is deployed. High interest loans can easily push their finances to the edge and harm their financial well being.

Last year the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society provided nearly \$50 million in financial assistance to active duty and retired Marines and Sailors. Much of this assistance was needed to pay off high interest credit they could not afford. Amendment 09924 does nothing to mitigate the already harmful aspects of HB 2191. Because the basic predatory loan aspects of the Bill remain intact, none of the other provisions can mitigate the harm -- A 09924 actually worsens the problem it claims to solve. You'll do a great service for our men and women in the Armed Services by *opposing* A 09924.

Thank-you for your continued support of our military personnel and families.

Sincerely,

Steve Abbot, Admiral USN (Ret.)
President, Chief Executive Officer

*Since 1904 ... Helping nearly four million Sailors, Marines and their families
with more than one billion dollars in interest-free loans & grants!*