



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FT BRAGG
2175 REILLY ROAD
FORT BRAGG NORTH CAROLINA 28310-5000

July 10, 2020

Office of the Garrison Commander

Chairman Grier Martin
North Carolina Military Affairs Commission
413 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

Dear Chairman Martin:

I urge the passage of House Bill 1067 (Modernize Debt Settlement Prohibition).

Fort Bragg leadership's primary goals are ensuring service and family member well-being and mission readiness. House Bill 1067 will further these goals by protecting active duty military personnel and their families from abusive debt collection practices facilitated by debt settlement companies and their affiliates. To maintain the highest level of military readiness, service members must be able to focus on their mission without the distraction and financial harm caused by debt settlement companies.

The practices of debt settlement companies and their deleterious impacts on vulnerable borrowers are well documented. Such adverse impacts include making largely false promises of reducing debt obligations while leaving borrowers saddled with loans in default, tax bills, creditor lawsuits and judgements, and or high cost debt consolidation loans.

We support the passage of House Bill 1067, which will tighten restrictions on debt settlement companies with regard to vulnerable service members and their families and would eliminate loopholes allowing attorney exemptions or affiliates to handle borrower funds and payments. Further, the legislation will ensure debt settlement companies do not thwart nor negate services provided by service relief societies, military financial counselors, and non-profit credit counsellors at low or no costs to service members and their families.

As always, we appreciate your concern for our service members and their families.

Sincerely,



JUSTIN O. MITCHELL
Garrison Manager