

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 10, 2005

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

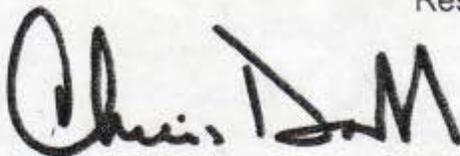
Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

As you know, Section 351 of Public Law 108-375, the Fiscal Year 2005 Defense Authorization Act (HR 4200), provides for reimbursement to troops or family members for the cost of body armor or other protective, health, or safety related equipment purchased for use in Afghanistan and Iraq while this equipment was in short supply.

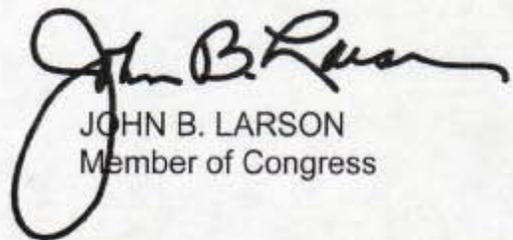
We are interested in receiving an update from you or your staff to discuss the progress being made in implementing this section of the law and in the process you are developing to facilitate these reimbursements as was instructed in the law. As you can imagine, the troops and family members who were forced to buy these items at their own expense are understandably eager to be reimbursed for these costs.

Please feel free to contact us directly, or Jonathan Renfrew in Rep. Larson's office at jon.renfrew@mail.house.gov or 202-225-2265, or Neal Orringer in Senator Dodd's office at neal_orringer@dodd.senate.gov or 202-224-2823 to arrange an update. We look forward to working with you to see that this matter is addressed appropriately and expeditiously.

Respectfully,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senate



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

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