



State of New Mexico *Office of the Governor*

Bill Richardson
Governor

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New Mexico National Guard Proposal Passes New Mexico House of Representatives 70-0

Every Active New Mexico National Guard Member to Receive \$250,000.00 Life Insurance Paid for by the State

SANTA FE - On January 4, 2005, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson announced his proposal to "Take Care of Our Own." Today, the New Mexico House of Representatives passed the National Guard Insurance Benefit, which will provide every active duty member of the New Mexico National Guard \$250,000.00 in life insurance paid for by the state of New Mexico, unanimously 70 -0.

"Our troops deserve more than speeches. It is time to take real action. Since I announced my proposal, twenty states have contacted my office. This is an idea whose time has come and I challenge every state to adopt this benefit for their National Guard members. I want to commend New Mexico House Speaker Ben Lujan, for carrying the bill and providing the legislative leadership for quick House action," Governor Richardson said.

Once passed by the New Mexico Senate, New Mexico would become the first state in the nation to adopt this important benefit for National Guard Members. Currently, over 40% of the troops serving in Iraq are National Guard or Reserve.

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