



**News from Congressman**

# **Tom Lantos**

**12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California  
San Mateo/San Francisco**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 18, 2004**

**FOR INFORMATION CALL  
Lynne Weil (202) 225-6735**

---

## **Republican Intransigence Again Stymies Lantos Effort to Provide Financial Relief to Reservists, National Guard**

**Washington, D.C.** - When a country is at war, rule number one is that the sacrifices must be shared. Congress must support our citizen-soldiers who answer the call of duty but who still face ongoing financial obligations in their civilian lives. Our Reserves and the National Guard are doing a superb job. But thousands of them are suffering significant hardships due to the discrepancy between their civilian and military pay. Abandoning them financially is unacceptable.

Yet, for the second time in two years the Rules Committee has failed to include my amendment, which would have immediately eliminated the pay gap for federal employees and provided significant incentives for State and municipal governments to do the same.

Instead of delaying financial assistance for one year, as the bill we are considering proposes, my amendment would have wiped out the pay gap for Reservists and National Guard members immediately.

Mr. Speaker, for the soldiers who suffer from the pay gap this assistance is too little and too late.

In a time of war, it is unconscionable to impose all of the sacrifice on one segment of society. Yet, the Administration and the Republicans in this house continue to back massive tax cuts for the wealthiest, placing financial burdens on other groups – including the Reservists and members of the National Guard, who are already sacrificing so much for all of us.

It is an outrage that this body is not allowed to vote on providing members of our National Guard and reservists some financial relief. My amendment, which would provide immediate help to the tens of thousands of Reservists and members of the National Guard was ruled out of order. Why? Because the Republican leadership is convinced that were we to debate my amendment freely on this floor, it would pass overwhelmingly. It is an outrage to the Reservists and members of the National Guard that we are denied that opportunity.

I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this unfair, inequitable, and undemocratic rule.

###

