

February 1, 2012

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) today praised the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) proposed rule change to the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) regarding leave for family members of military servicemen and women. The proposed rule would allow family members to take up to 26 weeks off of work under FMLA to care for a veteran up to five years after returning home from active duty.

"America's military families sacrifice a great deal to be able to serve their country," Congressman Altmire said. "In 2008, we made the first change to the FMLA to address the needs of military families when their loved ones are placed on active duty. Today, we are taking the next step to make certain that they can also use FMLA after the service member has completed his or her service. Our military men and women can face extraordinary challenges when they return home. Ensuring that they have the support and care they need has always been one of my top priorities, and I urge the DOL to quickly implement this new rule as thousands of troops are returning home from overseas."

The proposed rule expands on Congressman Altmire's amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 that allowed military families to take time off under FMLA to manage issues that arise as a result of deployment of an immediate family member.

For more information on Congressman Altmire's 2008 amendment and other initiatives to support veterans, please [click here](#) . The DOL is accepting public comment on the proposed rule. More information on the rule change can be found by [clicking here](#)