



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST-MARINE CORPS BASE
PSC BOX 20005
CAMP LEJEUNE NC 28542-0005

1100
G-7
8 Jul 20

Senators and Representatives
North Carolina General Assembly
16 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear General Assembly:

The passage of House Bill 1067 (Modernize Debt Settlement Prohibition) greatly benefits Marine Corps Installations across the state of North Carolina. This legislation protects active duty military personnel and their families from the abusive practices of debt settlement companies; and maintains the highest level of military readiness by allowing service members to focus on their mission without the distraction and financial harm caused by these companies.

Debt settlement companies pursue vulnerable borrowers, which can include service members and their dependents. Some of these abusive practices fail to reduce debt obligations and leave borrowers in worse conditions with loans in default, tax bills, and creditor lawsuits and judgements. In some cases these companies steer victims into high cost debt consolidation loans.

Recognizing the harm so often perpetrated by debt settlement companies, North Carolina acted to limit the practice as far back as 1963. Eighteen other states have enacted laws that prohibit or effectively limit the ability of debt settlement companies to harm borrowers, including the neighboring states of Georgia and South Carolina.

House Bill 1067 in its current form ensures that debt settlement companies do not thwart the excellent, free services available to military service members and their families through service relief societies and military financial counselors, and the minimal cost services provided by non-profit credit counsellors.

As always, we appreciate your concern for our service members and consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. DAVIS
Chief of Staff
Marine Corps Installations East-
Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

Copy to: Secretary, NC Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
MCIEAST-MCB Camp Lejeune AC/S G-7
LSSS-East Regional legal Assistance Director