

### Guard & Reserve Suicides Double since 2009

#### At least 145 Guard and Reserve Members Took Their Own Lives in 2010

(Washington, DC) – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today issued the following statement in reaction to the Army’s announcement that suicide rates among Guard and Reserve members had doubled in the past year:

“I am thankful that the efforts of Army Chief of Staff Peter Chiarelli and the Army as a whole have led to a slight reduction in the number of suicides among our active duty soldiers. However, as General Chiarelli acknowledged today, the doubling in suicides among Guard and Reserve members is both alarming and a call to action.

“In the coming weeks, I will be reintroducing the Sergeant Coleman Bean Reserve Component Suicide Prevention Act, which has passed the House unanimously twice but was blocked by members of the Senate minority. My legislation, named in memory of a constituent who tragically took his own life after serving two combat tours in Iraq, would directly address the lack of follow up with at-risk Guard and Reserve members that General Chiarelli spoke of today. I hope it will be expeditiously considered and swiftly passed into law. Our Guard and Reserve members – who have borne a huge burden since September 11, 2001 – deserve the best possible suicide prevention and counseling services our country can provide.”

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