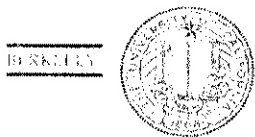


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February 8, 2008

The Honorable John Campbell
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Campbell:

I am writing to you to clarify matters related to H.R. 5222, The Semper Fi Act. The resolutions dealing with Marine recruiting in the City of Berkeley and passed by the City Council have no bearing on the actions of the University of California, Berkeley. The Berkeley campus is a completely separate entity from the City of Berkeley. The Berkeley campus has a long standing ROTC program, dating back to 1870, of which we are very proud. All branches of the Armed Forces, including the Marines, are welcome to recruit on the Berkeley campus and I have defended vigorously our policy when various groups have objected to it. The Berkeley campus also offers financial aid and other preferences to veterans and the dependents of soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Indeed, the University of California overall, and each of our campuses, offers maximum flexibility to veterans, active duty personnel (even those serving in the United States), and dependents of soldiers. These services include ease in registration and re-enrollment matters; full refunds of payments that might have been made, even for housing; waiver of in-state tuition for dependents if their parent(s) are deployed out of state; and in awarding financial aid.

I understand that the City Council is reconsidering these resolutions next week and that the Mayor and some members of the City Council have issued public apologies. I join the chorus of voices who find these resolutions ill advised, intemperate and hurtful, particularly to the young men and women and their families who are sacrificing so much for our country.

Finally, the particular appropriation designated for the Berkeley campus honors the memory of one of your own members of Congress, the Honorable Robert Matsui. I see no value in eliminating this well deserved honor over the actions of a few City Council members who have no authority over the University of California, Berkeley.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,


Robert J. Birgeneau