

**JANICE HAHN**  
44TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
404 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-8220

SAN PEDRO OFFICE:  
140 W. 6TH ST.  
SAN PEDRO, CA 90731  
(310) 831-1799

COMPTON OFFICE:  
205 S. WILLOWBROOK AVE.  
COMPTON, CA 90220  
(310) 605-5520

SOUTH GATE OFFICE:  
8650 CALIFORNIA AVE.  
SOUTH GATE, CA 90280  
(323) 563-9562

CARSON OFFICE:  
701 E. CARSON ST.  
CARSON, CA 90745  
(310) 830-7600 EXT. 1038

WILMINGTON OFFICE:  
544 AVALON BLVD., STE. 307  
WILMINGTON, CA 90744  
(310) 549-8282

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0544**

October 24, 2016

General Joseph L. Lengyel  
Chief  
National Guard Bureau  
111 S. George Mason Dr.  
Arlington, VA 22204

Dear General Lengyel:

It has come to my attention that the Pentagon has been demanding repayment of decade-old enlistment bonuses provided to nearly 10,000 soldiers of the California National Guard. The Pentagon should halt these clawback efforts immediately.

These are men and women who answered the call of duty and served our country in Iraq and Afghanistan and whose only mistake was accepting money they were told was theirs. In the midst of chaos and war, these soldiers were not responsible for the sloppy accounting done by leadership at both the Pentagon and California National Guard. I understand that your policy is to have overpayments returned, however demanding them back over a decade later is unfair and unjust. Many of these veterans have been forced to refinance or sell their homes. Others have seen their wages garnished and their financial futures put in jeopardy. These veterans do not deserve this and many of them cannot afford lawyers to fight on their behalf.

**The Pentagon should waive this debt, issue apologies to these veterans, and work to develop better protocols that will prevent mistakes like these in the future.**

This is a matter of trust. These veterans put their lives on the line in service to the US military and trusted that the Pentagon would have their backs. Should you determine that an act of Congress is necessary to fix this problem, I stand ready with my colleagues to find a solution.

Sincerely,

Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress