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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0905

March 3, 2011

The Honorable Ray Mabus
The Secretary of the Navy
Office of the Secretary of the Navy
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-2000

Dear Secretary Maybus,

I was disappointed to learn that due to insufficient participation, the Pasco High School NJROTC program will be shut down by the Navy following the completion of this school year.

JROTC graduates across this great country have acquired many of the life tools necessary to face the serious challenges and heavy responsibilities of adulthood through this program. As a father of three boys who participated in JROTC, I have firsthand knowledge of the benefits these programs provide. Two of my sons went on to attend West Point, and my third son graduated from Tampa University with an ROTC scholarship. Today, all three of them are officers in the military.

That is why I am asking you to reconsider your decision and provide Pasco High School with the ability to receive more guidance from the other successful NJROTC schools in the area before terminating the program. This extra time and assistance would provide the Pasco High School JROTC program with the ability to properly address their current recruitment shortfalls and help to strengthen the mission and overall success of this program.

I agree that schools should be held accountable for the programs that they implement and oversee. The metrics used also matter. This program is still positively affecting not only the lives of the 50 promising students currently enrolled in the program; but also their friends, families and fellow members of the community. It would be a shame to eliminate this program before all of the options to improve its enrollment numbers have been exhausted.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Richard B. Nugent
Member of Congress