

MILITARY FAMILIES RECEIVE PAID LEAVE, BENEFITS FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN

On Jan. 6, the U.S. Congress included an amendment giving military families who adopt paid maternity leave and guaranteed health coverage for their families when it passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2006 (P.L.109-163). The "Military Adoption Act of 2005" (Sec. 593 of the NDAA) grants up to 21 days of paid leave to the primary caregiver following the placement of a child for adoption. Prior policy provided up to \$5,000 per year in adoption expenses, but did not allow paid leave after an adoption. (The Family and Medical Leave Act does not apply to the Armed Forces.) To read the amendment, go to: <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and search for HR1815 in the search bill text field.