

Opening Statement
Rep. Jim Ryun
March 16, 2005

Mr. Chairman, I want to express my support for H.R. 458, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky, Mr. Davis, for his good work in bringing this bill forward again and I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for granting it prompt consideration.

H.R. 458 will help us protect the men and women of our military from predatory sales practices and should receive the support of every Member of this committee.

I have been pleased to assist with the crafting of this legislation. I have specifically worked to include language to ensure that the authority of our base commanders is preserved and strengthened. These commanders are the first line of defense for our soldiers and must have the information they need to carry out this duty.

The language that I have worked to include will ensure that commanders have access to information about agents that have been problematic on previous occasions. This will equip them with the knowledge they need to protect the soldiers under their jurisdiction by keeping those agents off their bases.

This is a good bill and I look forward to supporting its passage. I encourage my colleagues to join me.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.