

nhcorrespondence,

From: Office of the Governor Site Support <christophermn3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:01 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Subject: Stop the unfair burdens on LGBT National Guard members

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Message:

Your state's announcement that it will deny legally married same sex spouses of National Guard service members the benefits they deserve and are entitled to is in direct conflict with federal law.

A host of other states that do not yet recognize same-sex marriages, including Alabama, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, and Virginia, have said they will process the federal benefits -- so why not South Carolina?

Your state is simply placing additional, unnecessary burdens on service members and their families as they seek to access benefits they are perfectly entitled to. It is fundamentally unfair that some Guard members and their spouses must take time away from work and family responsibilities and travel, in some cases hundreds of miles simply to access these benefits.

The federal government has already assured that these families get the benefits they deserve. Don't stand in the way.

As a supporter of the Human Rights Campaign, I urge you to direct state facilities to immediately allow LGBT National Guard members and their spouses to enroll in all federal benefit programs.

Basic fairness demands it.