



## MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

**NOT A JOKING MATTER!**

**January 26, 2009**

Today we debated HB1054 in the Colorado House of Representatives (People's House), a bill sponsored by myself and Senator Morse that allows the surviving spouse of a member of the United States armed forces who is killed in combat to claim a full award of unemployment insurance benefits (U.I.).

Even though the bill passed out of the House Business Affairs & Labor Committee unanimously there was opposition from the left side of the isle.

The battle began when Representative McGihon (D) Denver, challenged the bill and my amendment to allow surviving spouses the option of waiving the requirement to actively seek work while making funeral and family arrangements. Her concern of depleting the Unemployment Trust Fund is noted, however the estimated fiscal impact for the bill is less than \$10,000 a year on our extremely solvent U.I. Trust Fund which has more than \$600,000,000 dollars!

Then Rep. Soper (D) of Adams, Rep. Green (D) of Jefferson and Rep. McKinley (D) of Baca County started circling the barn to note their opposition to HB1054.

How can ***anyone*** actually be serious about denying U.I. benefits to grieving men and women whom have earned these benefits by working for over a year, who's employer has paid into the unemployment insurance trust fund, are forced to relocate and have recently lost a spouse in military combat? It is not a joke, when there are members of the People's House who actually think surviving spouses do not deserve this benefit! If you wish to witness the debate, visit [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us), video/audio broadcasts of current proceedings, watch the House of Representatives, archived videos, Day 20 Video and select HB09-1054 to listen to the entire debate.

It is no laughing matter to me, our House District and our military families who make the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Thank you for the honor to fight for the rights and benefits for our military families. Together, with your help we can work on reasonable, sustainable benefits for those who lay their life-on-the-line for our rights, liberties and freedoms!

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