I rise for the purpose of a colloquy regarding

an amendment that I had intended to offer relating to military

families.

Mr. Chair, our military personnel have access to great health care

through TRICARE, but in certain cases--and many would be surprised to

learn this--TRICARE does not cover every health service. And this comes

into play sometimes with children of military families with special

needs. There's also a circumstance when someone in the military is

separating from the military but they don't have retirement benefits,

and their family, their children, may not have access to health

insurance.

I ran into this in a case back home in Tampa, Florida, at MacDill Air

Force Base, not unlike many of our colleagues here who participate in

forums for veterans and job fairs and the like. The military health

folks didn't know a lot about Medicaid or the Children's Health

Insurance Program, whether it applied to military families that they

talked to all of the time or those families that are separating from

the military and are no longer covered by TRICARE. So we tried to

investigate this with the Pentagon a little bit, but they were not able

to clarify anything for us.

I have done a little research. There was one report, entitled,

``Medicaid's Role in Treating Children in Military Families.'' That

report advised that 1 in 12 children from military families rely on

Medicaid for some health service; and for children with special needs

in the military families, 1 in 9. I was surprised to learn that,

frankly. Plus, we have many that have served in the military and have

come back from Iraq or Afghanistan and have a lot of questions about

what it means for them finding a job, finding coverage for their family

as they move on in their lives.

So I had intended to offer an amendment that simply clarifies the

fact that nothing prohibits DOD from providing that information at a

job fair, a health fair, or advising military families that the

Medicaid coverage or the SCHIP coverage could be an option. So I would

really like to work with Chairman Young, the Department of Defense, and

Ranking Member Dicks so that our military families don't have to worry

about health coverage, whether they're in the military, they have

children, children with special needs, or they're separating from the

military and they just simply need answers to questions about where

they can turn.

I yield to the chairman.

Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman. And this is

especially meaningful coming from Chairman Young. No one has been more

attentive to military families and our service members--no matter what

service, no matter their veteran status--than Mr. Young, my colleague

and friend from Florida.

I thank the gentleman and yield back the balance of my time.