



# ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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3 January 2014

General Gordon R. Sullivan  
United States Army (Ret.)  
President

The Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

On behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army, I write to urge you to rescind the provision in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 that will require a 1 percent annual reduction to the uniformed service retired pay Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) until the retiree reaches the age of 62.

Both the Administration and the Congress have stated repeatedly that any changes to the military compensation and benefits package would be grandfathered for the currently-serving force and for current retirees. The Budget Act provision flies in the face of that pledge and breaks faith with those who have served their nation for 20 years and with those who will retire in the future, who until now had the expectation of a full COLA adjustment each year to match calculated inflation.

As the economy rights itself, this devastating blow to an earned deferred compensation benefit will be an enormous disincentive for retention of battle-tested military personnel. Those currently serving will look at how today's retirees are treated and will leave active duty, diminishing leadership in our defense forces and weakening our national security.

AUSA looks forward to working with you to eliminate the working-age COLA reduction before its implementation in 2015.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. SULLIVAN  
General, USA Retired

GRS/wbl

U.S. House: All Members

U.S. Senate: All Members