



# ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2425 WILSON BOULEVARD, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201 | 703-841-4300

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November 21, 2024

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Chairman  
Armed Services Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Chairman  
Armed Services Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Ranking Member  
Armed Services Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
Armed Services Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Smith:

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) is grateful for your leadership in the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. As you continue to work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we offer a few recommendations for your consideration and ask that you pass this critical legislation as quickly as possible.

The Army is vital to national security with ongoing conflicts across the globe demonstrating that landpower is essential, and the land domain is decisive. As such, we believe it is essential for the Total Army and the Department of Defense (DoD) to have the resources needed to deter any adversary, to “Fight and Win” when necessary, and to ensure the continued excellence of the all-volunteer force. Thus, we request that you authorize funding – at least at the level included in the Senate Armed Services Committee-passed bill – and add additional resources commensurate with the threats facing our nation. Additional resources should support Army priorities, enable continuous transformation through Army modernization programs, enhance Army and DoD infrastructure, and improve both the organic and defense industrial base.

The Army continues to answer the nation’s call domestically and across the globe. For example, the Army has positioned capable forces in Europe to support NATO in the wake of Russia’s brutal invasion of Ukraine and makes key contributions in the Middle East as part of the joint force to counter numerous threats. It also brings life-saving support in response to natural disasters. Additionally, AUSA highlights the Army’s enduring importance to American interests and security, and to that of our allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific.

As our nation faces the multifaceted challenges posed by an increasingly capable and aggressive China, and advances made by North Korea, in particular; the Army retains the capacity to provide ground-based deterrent capabilities, facilitate and sustain joint operations, train allies and partners, and maintain stability in the region. We support the extension and modification of the Pacific Deterrence Initiative House Section 1301 and Senate Section 1243. We also support Senate Section 1241 consistent with DoD requests and efforts to increase interoperability with allies and partners in the region. We also support authorizing the full funding request for Terminal High Altitude Aerial Defense (THAAD) integration. It is clear, the Army must be properly resourced to meet its mission in the Indo-Pacific and around the globe.



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AUSA appreciates your commitment to our Soldiers, Army families, DoD civilians, and Soldiers for Life. As you know, providing appropriate compensation is an important incentive for recruitment and retention. The inclusion of at least a 4.5 percent pay increase for service members and at least a 2.0 percent pay increase for DoD civilians as included in the Senate bill is very important. Similarly, we support provisions that enhance recruitment efforts such as Senate Section 595 and House Section 537 as well as efforts to increase and improve educational opportunities through the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) such as Senate Sections 581 through 584 and House Section 543.

We support provisions to enhance the quality of life for Soldiers and their families such as improvements to childcare, housing, healthcare for Soldiers and families, and we appreciate the inclusion of measures to improve military spouse employment such as Senate Section 1110. We support House Section 702 which would waive fees on the TRICARE Dental Program for members of Reserve Components. We want to ensure there are sufficient TRICARE providers to guarantee beneficiaries receive the best care possible in a convenient and timely fashion. Further, we appreciate your dedication to combatting death by suicide and improving the availability of behavioral healthcare and encourage you to include House Sections 606 and 738, which would work to assist service members at risk of suicide and improve the availability of suicide prevention resources. Authorization of robust funding for Impact Aid to assist schools and families will help ensure that military children receive an excellent education at off-installation schools. AUSA supports inclusion of H.R. 1282/S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act – a long-held AUSA priority – to ensure eligible Soldiers for Life receive full compensation. We also commend your focus on eradicating sexual assault and harassment. These are top Army "People First" priorities, and we support continued attention and efforts along with additional resources.

As threats to our nation grow, the need for continuous transformation and improved readiness is apparent. AUSA requests your continued support for the Army's modernization priorities and support for the Army's training and sustaining priorities – this includes a strong and expandable organic industrial base. The Army's modernization priorities include secure command and control, long-range precision fires, and air and missile defense, which are proving to be indispensable capabilities for successful ground combat in Europe and the Middle East. The inclusion of multiyear procurement authorities provide planning and budget stability, along with flexibility and cost-savings for the Army and the industrial base. Further, provisions such as Senate Section 850 and 1541 support improvement of the industrial base and necessary workforce development.

As you know, the Army is indispensable to national security. Once again, we urge you to swiftly pass the NDAA and authorize additional resources that reflect the demonstrated need and urgency that our national security challenges require.

Thank you for your continued service to our nation and support for the Total Army.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Brown  
General, U.S. Army, Retired  
President and CEO