



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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7 October 2014

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

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Levin:

On behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), I write to thank you and the Armed Services Committee for your efforts to protect the interests of service members in the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Bill.

AUSA urges the full Senate to adopt amendments to reject a five percent reduction to the military housing allowance, and a disproportionate increase in TRICARE pharmacy fees for retirees and active component family members, as well as several other pending Senate amendments (attached). AUSA offers the attached matrix with recommendations concerning differences between the House bill (H.R. 4435) and the Senate Armed Services Committee bill (S. 2410).

Further, AUSA urges repeal of sequestration, which it views as threatening the very security of our nation. These arbitrary reductions have led to a "benefits versus bullets" debate which places the all-volunteer force (AVF) and readiness at risk. Funding is needed for both – not one over the other.

Recent international events place new demands on service members who have been at war for 13 years and now face significant reductions in compensation, benefits, and force levels. To sustain the AVF that keeps us safe, we must provide adequate funding for weapon systems, and provide those in uniform with a compensation and benefits package that acknowledges their sacrifice.

Sincerely,



GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, USA Retired

GRS/wbl