



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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14 May 2015

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

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States House of Representatives
104 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Duckworth:

On behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army, I write to thank you for introducing The Military Spouses' Achieving College Education for Survivors (ACES) Act.

It was a great step forward last year when Congress included the expansion of the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to cover Post-9/11 surviving spouses in the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act (Pub. L.113-146). However, the 15 year limit of the Fry Scholarship means that widows or widowers who lost their spouses at the beginning of the war will have little or no time to use this important benefit.

Your bill would provide all surviving spouses whose servicemember died in the line of duty after 9/11/2001 the ability to use the full 36 months of the scholarship without losing the benefit before completion of their planned course of study. This is what was intended in last year's legislation, and we are very grateful that you are correcting the omission.

AUSA stands ready to assist in all efforts to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,



GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, USA Retired