



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22201-3385 • (703) 841-4300

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

3 March 2016

The Honorable Chris Gibson
House of Representatives
1708 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Gibson:

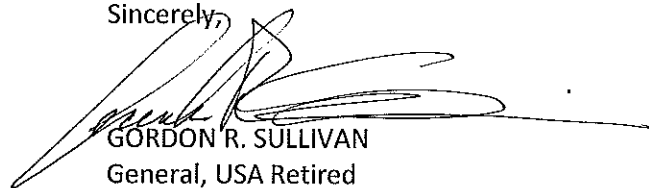
On behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), I write to support your introduction of H.R. 4534, the "Protecting Our Security Through Utilizing Right-Sized End-Strength Act of 2016" or the "POSTURE Act." At a time when our Army is confronting growing threats and increasing operational demands, it would be wise to pause the current budget-driven force reductions and allow the next administration time to assess land force capabilities and needs before determining troop levels.

Under current plans, the Regular Army is expected to fall to 475,000 Soldiers by 1 October 2016, and then further decrease to 450,000 Soldiers by 1 October 2018. These same plans will also reduce the end strength of our Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. Such a reduction in our landpower capability does not make sense in a time of increased threats and global instability.

While the POSTURE Act puts the brakes on budget-driven force reductions, the Army will also face negative consequences if the additional end strength is not funded. During a recent hearing on the Army's Fiscal Year 2017 budget, Army Chief of Staff GEN Mark Milley told the Senate Appropriations Committee that stopping the drop in Army end strength without providing funding to cover the additional costs would undermine readiness and potentially result in a hollow Army.

AUSA looks forward to working with you to advance the POSTURE Act, but urges you to consider ways to provide the additional resources to prepare our Army to face a dangerous and increasingly unstable world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon R. Sullivan", is written over the typed name and title.

GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, USA Retired