



*ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY*

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

23 January, 2009

On behalf of the more than 105,000 members of the Association of the United States Army, I write to endorse the inclusion of \$6 billion for military construction and \$1 billion for VA facilities in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan legislation. This funding will not only improve the quality of life for our service members and veterans but will provide much needed jobs in areas surrounding military communities.

Another Army requirement that would generate jobs is full funding for Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (SRM) which finances worldwide operations, activities, and initiatives necessary to maintain and sustain the Army's facilities.

Stabilizing and strengthening the American economy while improving the living conditions and health care facilities of military personnel and veterans is vital to all Americans. While all of the items included in the defense and veterans portion of the legislation are important and welcomed, AUSA is particularly gratified that additional funding is planned for military hospitals. The current aging infrastructure does a disservice to the military personnel and their families who give so much to this country and deserve world-class medical facilities in which to treat their wounds and keep them healthy and ready to defend our nation.

Further, providing additional money for troop housing, child care, Reserve Component support and BRAC as well as veterans medical facilities and cemeteries address long-time AUSA goals. Our association stands ready to assist in any way to ensure passage of this important addition to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. SULLIVAN

General, USA Retired