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President

ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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On September 26th I wrote to express my deep concern about proposals from your Office of Management and Budget that threaten to curtail military health care and retirement benefits as part of an attempt to solve our nation's fiscal crisis.

Our military personnel serving today have willingly agreed to serve their country during the longest, most trying, series of deployments the all-volunteer force has experienced. These men and women have repeatedly put their lives on the line and exposed their families to the stresses of deployments, all the while asking for little in return. As they selflessly served their country, they maintained the expectation that after a career of voluntary service they would receive the benefits promised them – they are now threatened with having those benefits pulled out from under them. Simply put, denying these earned benefits to our men and women who have spent a career in uniform is a grave injustice, and to many, a broken promise.

The continued attacks on military benefits injects uncertainty into the minds of our military personnel – “Will those benefits be there when I need them?” These benefits mitigate the hardships that Servicemembers undergo, removing them deters the military's top talent from pursuing a full career, threatening the future quality and capability of our armed forces.

Mr. President, I again urge you to remove from your deficit reduction plan any proposals that would change military healthcare and retirement benefits and to oppose similar congressional initiatives. We cannot ask the few who have willingly served this country in uniform to bear the brunt of solving the nation's debt crisis.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. SULLIVAN

General, USA Retired