



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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

12 June 2012

On behalf of the membership of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), I write to express the association's support for H.R. 1775, the "Stolen Valor Act of 2011" which you sponsored.

This legislative proposal would make it a crime for a person to profit by misrepresenting their military service or eligibility for military awards or decorations. By barring any profit from such misrepresentation rather than criminalizing the false statement itself, H.R. 1775 would avoid contravening the United States Constitution's First Amendment provision cited in a recent United States Supreme Court decision.

AUSA believes that your bill strikes the proper balance between preventing gain from false statements and protecting individual freedom of speech that generations of uniformed service members have fought to preserve. Our association will join in working toward the enactment of H.R. 1775.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. SULLIVAN

General, USA Retired