



Lt Gen Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret)  
President and CEO

August 17, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), our nation's largest military service organization, and fourth largest veteran service organization, representing more than 350,000 currently serving, retired, and former officers, survivors, and their families, thanks you and members of the U.S. Senate for your unwavering efforts to support the uniformed services and veteran communities in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

This upcoming fiscal year will be challenging for our nation, both at home and abroad, and we must ensure we have the oversight, resources, and programs in place across the government to preserve and sustain our all-volunteer force.

The uniformed services are currently in a recruiting crisis. Today's force is serving during a time of mounting threats and increased operational tempo. These challenges contribute to recruiting shortfalls and understrength units. History has shown poor morale and readiness problems result when we don't effectively support those who serve and their families.

As such, we respectfully ask for your attention to the current crisis and full Senate support on the following provisions in the committee-reported version of the Senate FY 2023 NDAA, S. 4543, and ask you ensure they are included in the final bill:

Active Force:

- Sec. 521. Modernization of the Selective Service System.
- Sec. 573. Authorization of a pilot program to hire special education inclusion coordinators for child development centers.
- Sec. 603. Extension of authority to temporarily adjust the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) in certain areas.
- Sec. 2822. Establishment of a Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council.

- Sec. 2823. Mandatory disclosure of potential presence of mold and health effects of mycotoxins before a lease is signed for privatized military housing.

#### Guard and Reserve:

- Sec. 513. Backdating of effective date of rank for Reserve officers in the National Guard due to undue delays in federal recognition.
- Sec. 514. Requiring an independent study on federal recognition process.

#### Health Care:

- Sec. 704. Improvement of referrals for specialty care under TRICARE Prime during permanent changes of station.
- Sec. 746. Establishment of a scholarship-for-service pilot program for civilian behavioral health providers.

Additionally, as the Senate continues its important work on this year's NDAA, MOAA offers our full support on the following prospective floor amendments to the Senate FY 2023 NDAA, S. 4543:

#### Support for Combat Injured:

- The Major Richard Star Act would support over 50,300 combat-injured veterans with concurrent receipt of vested retired pay and VA disability. Currently, these combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans are subject to a cost-saving offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. Retired pay is for completed years of service paid by DoD, while disability compensation is for lifelong injury paid by the VA. To reduce earned retirement pay because of a combat disability is an injustice and not the place to achieve savings. MOAA urges Congress to waive the PAYGO rule to fund this measure.

#### TRICARE Young Adult:

- TRICARE continues to lag behind every other employer-sponsored health plan in the nation, with a lack of coverage for young adult dependents. The military kids impacted are members of military families who served during two decades of war. Fixing this parity gap is essential to ensuring military kids transitioning to adulthood have the same health care protections as their peers in families covered by commercial plans.

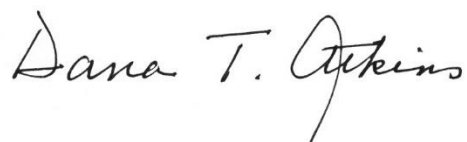
#### Guard and Reserve:

- The reserve component continues to be used to protect our nation domestically and abroad. Despite their service, we still see efforts to

circumvent servicemember rights as they deploy and return home. MOAA supports ending forced arbitration provisions for SCRA and USERRA.

Thank you for your time and attention on these important matters. We look forward to seeing these critical provisions incorporated into the finalized version of the FY 2023 NDAA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana T. Atkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'A'.

CC: Members of the U.S. Senate