



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2425 WILSON BOULEVARD, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201 | 703-841-4300

November 4, 2022

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Armed Services Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
Armed Services Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Rogers:

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) is grateful for your leadership in the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to maintain a strong national defense. Sufficient investment must be made in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in support of the Army's "People First" strategy, readiness, and modernization priorities – to support the Soldiers and families who sacrifice so much and as the Army (Regular, National Guard, and Reserve) is inextricably linked to national security. As you continue to work on the NDAA, we offer a few recommendations for your consideration.

We believe it is essential for the Army and the Department of Defense (DoD) to have the resources it needs to counter growing threats. Thus, we request that you authorize funding at least at the level included in *S. 4543, the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023*, to include the Army's unfunded priorities, to help to mitigate inflation, and improve our industrial base.

AUSA commends your commitment to our Soldiers, Army families, DoD civilians, and Soldiers for Life. As you know, providing appropriate compensation is an important incentive for recruitment and retention – particularly as recruitment remains a challenge. AUSA supports inclusion of at least a 4.6 percent pay increase included in both bills for service members, and a similar increase for DoD civilians, as well as resources to soften the impact of inflation and improve recruitment. We support provisions to enhance the quality of life of Soldiers and their families such as improvements to childcare, spousal employment, safe and healthy housing, and healthcare for Soldiers and families. Authorization of robust funding for Impact Aid to assist schools and families will help ensure that military children receive an excellent education. AUSA hopes that H.R. 1282/S. 344, *the Major Richard Star Act*, will be included – a long-held AUSA priority – to ensure Soldiers for Life receive full compensation. Further, we commend your dedication to combatting suicide and improving the availability of behavioral health resources, as well as your focus on eradicating sexual assault and harassment. These are

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top Army “People First” priorities, and we support continued attention and efforts along with additional resources.

As threats to our nation grow, the need to continue to modernize and strengthen readiness is apparent. AUSA requests your continued support for the Army’s core modernization priorities to enable future capabilities and support for the Army’s training and sustaining priorities to assure near-term readiness – this includes ensuring a strong and expandable organic industrial base. While the Army undergoes its most significant modernization effort in four decades, it continues to answer the nation’s call domestically and across the globe. From assisting with pandemic response to supporting civilian authorities to mitigate natural disasters – the Army is indispensable. It rapidly surged forces to Europe in the wake of Russia’s brutal invasion of Ukraine, while providing key contributions in the Middle East and Indo-Pacific as part of the joint force to counter the continued malign activities of Iran and an increasingly aggressive China.

With Congress’s increased focus on the Indo-Pacific, we highlight the Army’s enduring importance to American interests and security, and to that of our allies and partners in the region. As our nation faces the multifaceted challenges posed by an increasingly capable and hostile China, and advances made by North Korea, in particular; the Army retains the capacity to facilitate and sustain joint operations, provide ground-based deterrent capabilities through denial and cost imposition, train allies and partners, and maintain stability in the region. It is clear, the Army must be properly resourced to meet its mission in the Indo-Pacific and around the globe.

Thank you for your continued service to our nation and consideration of our recommendations for the Army.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert B. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert B. Brown
General, U.S. Army, Retired
President and CEO