



August 19, 2020

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

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

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

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of organizations representing 5.5 million servicemembers, veterans, their families and survivors, urges you to restore funding to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). Specifically, as the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) moves into conference, please support Senate language to restore Defense-Wide Review (DWR) cuts of \$10 million to USU Operation & Maintenance (O&M) funding. We also urge you to restore \$14.2 million to USU Research Development Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E).

USU plays an essential role in filling the uniformed medical provider pipeline and is the single largest accession source to military medicine. In 2018, USU graduates totaled 3,157 – more than the next 20 Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) schools combined. DoD has been unable to fill all available HPSP slots in recent years, further emphasizing the importance of USU to the provider pipeline.

USU graduates are career-oriented and committed to military medicine. They serve on active duty significantly longer than HPSP graduates (15 years, compared with 9 years), deployed more than 250% longer than other accession sources (an average of 731 days, compared with 266) and have higher representation in special operations units (180% higher in the Army). USU graduates are critical to DoD's ability to provide medical support for its servicemembers during wartime. They are not only essential for readiness, but they also serve as a valuable source of culturally competent beneficiary care for retirees, family members, and survivors.

Adequate funding is essential to maintaining a world-class university that attracts high-caliber faculty and students. If DWR-driven budget cuts are not reversed, many critical programs that contribute to USU's leadership role in military medicine and address needs specific to the military community face elimination or drastic cuts, including the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, Center for Deployment Psychology, Department of Defense Medical Ethics Center, National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health, and In-House Laboratory Independent Research (ILIR.)

We appreciate the Senate version of the FY 2021 NDAA includes language to restore USU funding so the university can continue its vital role within the military health system. Moving forward, we urge you to ensure that Senate language restoring USU funding is included in the final legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Du Teil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jack Du Teil
President,
The Military Coalition

See attached list of organizations

cc: Chairman Richard Shelby and Ranking Member Richard Durbin – U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Defense Subcommittee
Chairman Pete Visclosky and Ranking Member Ken Calvert – U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Defense Subcommittee

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association & Enlisted Association (CPOA)
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)
Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)
Marine Corps League (MCL)
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Military Chaplains Association
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
The Independence Fund (TIF)
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
VetsFirst