



March 19, 2020

The Hon. Richard C. Shelby
Chair, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Nita M. Lowey
Chair, Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Kay Granger
Ranking, Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Shelby and Lowey and Ranking Members Leahy and Granger:

The undersigned military and veteran service organizations, representing millions of current and former service members, veterans and their families and survivors are writing to you today because of our concern with Defense Wide Review discussions to reduce funding for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) by thirty percent or more.

We believe such cuts are particularly ill-advised and short-sighted because the USUHS is a major source of military physicians, with USUHS graduates making up twenty-five percent of medical corps officers. Furthermore, these doctors serve on active duty longer, are more represented in special operations units, attain a higher percentage of specialty certifications, and have longer military careers than do physicians who enter the military services from other sources.

The USUHS is the only medical and nursing school in the country that is dedicated to military and combat medicine and to training officers whose goal is to serve our country in uniform. USUHS was created after the Vietnam War when the draft ended, and it has established itself as a premier source of medical personnel for the armed forces and uniformed services since that time.

Medical graduates of USUHS must spend at least seven years on active duty once they have finished their medical education, and depending upon their specialty, many USUHS graduates spend many more years than what is required of them.

We urge DoD to include any proposed USUHS cuts in the review, analysis, measurement and mitigation plan development mandated by FY20 NDAA Sec. 719. It is critical that DoD fully understand the impact of billet reductions on military medical education, the Graduate Medical Education pipeline and future retention of uniformed medical providers.



As we understand it, proposed cuts in the USUHS budget could lead to its ultimate closure. We believe this would be extremely unwise and would reverse the amazing medical care successes that our deployed warfighters have enjoyed in recent years. We believe cuts to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences would result in a military establishment of lesser capability than what we have now, and we urge you to reject such cuts.

TMC, as represented by those organizations listed on the attached, appreciates your leadership on this important issue

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Du Teil". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jack Du Teil
President,
The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)



The Military Coalition:

Air Force Association (AFA)
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)
Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA) Enlisted
Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)
Iraq Afghanistan Veterans Association (IAVA)
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)
Marine Corps League (MCL)
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Reserve Officers Association (ROA)
Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
VetsFirst (United Spinal Program)