



AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 50 Temple Hills, Maryland 20757-0050

Phone: 301-899-3500 E-Mail: staff@hqafsa.org



January 27, 2014

The Honorable Dean Heller
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heller,


On behalf of the 110,000 plus members of the Air Force Sergeants Association, I offer our full support of S. 1931, the "*Responsible Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014*," specifically the provision to repeal the COLA reductions that were passed in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.

Passage of the Budget Act may have been necessary, but the decision to reduce COLA's created a number of unacceptable situations in dealing with military retirees and their ***earned*** pensions. Since August 2011 the president and senior military leaders assured service members around the world that no changes to the retirement program would affect those currently serving and those already retired--that any changes would be "grandfathered." They clearly broke their words to America's sons and daughters who serve with unwavering loyalty...and integrity.

Aside from negatively impacting those who previously served, one of our greatest concerns with decisions to cut COLAs rests with its impact on those yet to serve. The trust factor between Congress and retired Veterans is being lost in rhetoric; and those currently serving, as well as the American public, are paying attention. Recruiting and retention will suffer greatly if national leaders cannot be believed.

Passage of S. 1931 would be a start down the road of re-bridging that divide and giving back what was earned through service and sacrifice. AFSA calls on all Members of Congress to support this bill and work toward its immediate passage. We look forward to rendering whatever support we can to advance this important legislation.

Respectfully,


JOHN R. "DOC" McCAUSLIN, CMSgt, USAF, Retired
Chief Executive Officer

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