



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

July 24, 2019

The Honorable John Yarmuth
Chairman
House Budget Committee
204-E Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack
Ranking Member
House Budget Committee
204-E Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Yarmuth and Ranking Member Womack,

I write on behalf of MOAA's 350,000 members to support the bipartisan budget deal to suspend the debt limit and increase the FY 2020 defense spending to \$738B. We appreciate the effort it took to reach this compromise to support essential funding not only for our nation's defense but also to help avoid the potential for a government shutdown.

This year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), specifically H.R. 2500, is uniquely postured to finally repeal the Widows' Tax. As cosponsors of the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, you undoubtedly are both aware of the impact this would have on more than 65,000 surviving spouses – this budget compromise helps move us closer to this objective. Further, this NDAA has the opportunity to address the Defense Health Agency's reductions of 18,000 medical billets before they catastrophically change the Military Health System. While we remain focused on our service members, past and present, their survivors and families, we are appreciative of budgetary solutions that preclude continuing resolutions which create havoc across the entire range of priorities within the Department of Defense.

Seeing this budget agreement through to fruition is one of our highest priorities and we vow our support in this endeavor.

You both have a greater responsibility than most people can appreciate, and as you will both likely be appointed again as conferees for the upcoming NDAA Conference Committee we seek your continued leadership and support for our service members and their families.

Respectfully,