



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

May 27, 2016

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)  
Room 709  
Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski,

I am writing to thank you for your continued strong support for our men and women in uniform and their families, as most recently demonstrated by your introduction of amendment #4222, which would remove §604 from S. 2943, the Senate's FY17 defense policy legislation.

Section 604 aims to recoup more than \$200 million annually from the Regular Military Compensation (RMA), earned by servicemembers through reductions to the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), a main component of RMA of which they are entitled to under law. These reductions would begin in January 2018 for new entrants into military service and after the next Permanent Change of Station (PCS), for those already serving.

The reductions to BAH, as called for in §604, undoes the diligent work done by Congress over the past 15 years to rectify the out of pocket housing costs long borne by servicemembers and clearly sends the wrong message to them and their families – that their service and sacrifice is not important.

At a time when we have asked servicemembers to contribute more to their retirement savings, more to their housing, and possibly more to their healthcare, this proposal is wrongly conceived, unfair, and would do harm to the retention of our currently serving men and women and their families.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) strongly supports amendment #4222 to remove §604 and urges other members of the Senate to support the amendment as well.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued strong support for our men and women in uniform and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana T. Atkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.