



RADM CASEY W. COANE, USN (Ret)  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
casey.coane@ausn.org

16 April 2012

The Honorable John Boehner (OH-08)  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (CA-08)  
House Democratic Leader  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

CC:

The Honorable Eric Cantor (VA-07), House Maj. Leader  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy (CA-22), House Maj. Whip  
The Honorable Howard 'Buck' McKeon (CA-25), HASC Chair

The Honorable Steny Hoyer (MD-05), House Dem. Whip  
The Honorable Jim Clyburn (SC-06), Asst. Dem Leader  
The Honorable Adam Smith (WA-09), HASC RM

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), we are writing to urge you to support our nation's military and veteran communities by ensuring that sequestration does not occur. As you know, the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 contained the 'sequestration clause' as a means of ensuring that the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (JSCDR), aka 'Super Committee,' finds the required \$1.2 trillion in cost savings mandated by the BCA. However, due to its failure, the 'sequestration' trigger is now a threat to the Department of Defense (DOD) with indiscriminate and automatic cuts to vital national security and personnel programs. This 'sequester' is scheduled to make immediate spending reductions effective January 2013.

As many Department of Defense officials have testified, DOD sees sequestration as devastating, but is not planning on it to happen (officially) at this point. The budget itself is laid out in a way that it does not account for sequestration to occur, in that the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) Budget Request already contains \$487 billion in reduced defense spending over the course of the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). However, should Congress not be able to agree on the current proposed cuts in the FY13 Budget, sequestration would be triggered, adding approximately \$500 billion in additional cuts over the next 10 years. Many in the defense and veteran communities believe that even with the FY13 Budget Request, spending reduction cuts too deeply into DOD. Cuts and fee increases to the Defense Healthcare System and TRICARE, coupled with end-strength reductions and cuts in ship building may result in less citizens interested or motivated to join our all-volunteer force, greatly effecting recruitment and retention of qualified individuals.

With the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, saying in testimony, "In my view, if sequestration kicks in... I'm looking at not 285 ships in a given year. I'm looking at 230. We don't have enough structure to accrue that kind of savings without reducing procurement," coupled with the end strength reductions from 325,700 present Active Duty Navy down to 319,500 by FY17 and 66,200 present Navy Reserve down to 57,100 by FY17, the Association of the United States Navy is greatly concerned with the impact of the cuts that sequestration would incur upon the Navy and defense and veteran community.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact our Director of Legislation, Mr. Anthony A. Wallis, at 703-548-5800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Casey W. Coane". Below the signature, the name "Casey W. Coane" is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font.

Casey W. Coane