



## AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

**J. David Cox, Sr.**  
*National President*

**Augusta Y. Thomas**  
*NVP for Women & Fair Practices*

September 11, 2017

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, (AFGE), which represents more than 700,000 federal employees, including approximately 300,000 civilian employees working for the Department of Defense (DoD), we have a strong interest in preserving the military readiness of our armed forces and the effectiveness of the civilian workforce that serves as the backbone that supports those who serve in harm's way. As you consider amendments to accompany H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act, we ask that you **oppose** the **McCain-Reed Amendment #498** to the National Defense Authorization Act.

The McCain-Reed Amendment #498 would authorize another Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). In this age of military uncertainty, it is not the time to authorize a new BRAC round. A new round of BRAC would incur significant upfront costs at a time of significant fiscal restraint under the Budget Control Act. Previous BRAC rounds have not always resulted in the initially projected longer-term savings. To the extent that savings were realized, the impact frequently occurred much later than anticipated and the amount was lower than promised when bases were closed. A precipitous BRAC action at this time would have serious consequences and the toll on military readiness is not worth the risk.

We **support** the **Hirono Amendment** prohibiting hiring freezes at Defense Industrial Base Facilities because of the disruptions these freezes pose to these critical missions and the readiness of the Department.

We **support** the **Duckworth Amendment #790** which establishes a pro-active framework for addressing the DoD shortfall in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, maintenance, and manufacturing jobs.

We **support** the **Ernst Amendment #851** which takes critical steps to maintain the arsenals with sufficient workloads to ensure affordability and technical competence in all critical capability areas by prescribing guidance on the process for conducting make or buy analyses, including the use of the organic industrial base.

We **oppose** the **Donnelly Amendment** that would further use of term appointments as a means to enter the civil service acquisition workforce. While we support recruiting high quality candidates into the acquisition workforce, we believe that expansion of use of term appointments will effectively lead to a *de facto* "at will" workforce, and seriously undermine career civil service principles.



We oppose the **Cortez Masto Amendment** and the **Warner Amendment** that both establish a DoD Cyber Workforce Development Pilot program that is redundant with existing language in the bill that needs to be clarified in Conference. This will confuse and complicate these efforts.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sheila Clarke McCready, Defense Consultant for AFGE, at [mccres@afge.org](mailto:mccres@afge.org) or at 703-725-1683; John Anderson, Legislative Representative, at [john.anderson@afge.org](mailto:john.anderson@afge.org) or 202-639-6485; or Mia Dell, Legislative Representative, at [mia.dell@afge.org](mailto:mia.dell@afge.org) or 202-639-4003.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TKahn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas S. Kahn  
Director, Legislative Affairs