



March 24th, 2015

The Honorable Alphonso Malden, Jr., Chairman
Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission
P.O. Box 13170
Arlington, VA. 22209

Dear Chairman Maldon,

The American Military Retirees Association would like to thank you and each of the Commissioners who worked tirelessly over two years to develop 15 recommendations seeking to modernize military retirement and compensation benefits. We have closely monitored the Commissions' efforts and subsequent congressional hearings on your recommendations and have come to the conclusion that we do support the intent of many of the recommendations. Of course, we also have many reservations regarding several aspects of the recommendations that the final report includes. We will continue to be diligent as more in depth details are provided regarding the implementation and funding of the recommendations and will continue to communicate our concerns to members of Congress for their consideration as they go through the process of deciding whether or not they will be implemented.

Our primary concerns are based on the premise that no retiree benefit should be reduced to pay for a new benefit and that all other means must be sought to fund the current and/or recommended changes to compensation and retirement systems. In your letter at the beginning of the final report you state that, "fiscal challenges facing our Nation cannot be solved by focusing solely on the military". We steadfastly agree and it is this notion that should drive decisions regarding the funding of the recommendations. Funding should be sought by seeking out the numerous instances of fraud, waste, and abuse in the many other facets of our Federal budget and should under no circumstances be paid for at the expense of any military retiree. Furthermore, we adhere to the adage that we all learned early in our military careers—it is okay to add to a standard but never subtract from it. Moving forward, if these two basic principles are taken into consideration, we believe that many of the recommendations could be fully implemented.

The American Military Retirees Association truly appreciates the Commission's efforts and recommendations and we sincerely thank all of you for the tremendous effort and years of work and analysis that clearly contributed to your findings. We eagerly await more details and discussion regarding the implementation and funding of the recommendations.

Sincerely,

Ted Painter National Legislative Director