



Action Alert

Legislative Alert #112-4: SUPPORT Sequestration Exemption

[Take Action!](#)

Legislation, H.R. 3895 and S. 2128

VETERANS PROGRAMS

Issue Background:

The Budget Control Act of 2011 was signed into law last year, mandating that there be an overall \$1.2 trillion in cuts spread over all Executive Branch departments, with the Department of Defense share to be \$487 billion, over the next ten years. This is a result of the failure of the 'Super Committee' last fall to come to an agreement on finding cost savings within the federal budget. According to the Administration, the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) Budget Request would be on path to achieving this goal, however should the FY13 Budget Request change (exceeding the current overall budget for FY13 of \$3.8 trillion), it would trigger what has been called as 'sequestration,' which would call for automatic and indiscriminate cuts throughout each Department. With Members of Congress already upset at the dramatic cuts being seen in this budget request alone along with the public outcry at the FY13 Budget Request, Congress will likely take action, making sequestration even more a reality.

Action Required: Contact your Senators and Representatives and urge them to support H.R. 3895, introduced by Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL-01) on 3 February 2012 and S. 2128, introduced by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) on 17 February 2012. The bills would amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to clarify that all veterans programs are exempt from sequestration.

Details (To Be Put Into Letter):

The looming threat of sequestration has been a consistent concern in Congressional hearings the past few months. The Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, and the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs have both responded to questions, answering that the sequestration trigger would have a 'devastating impact' on how their departments would conduct its business for our current military and veteran community.

Although neither Department of Defense nor Veterans' Affairs have said they have begun plans for sequestration, believing that Congress will be able to find the cuts necessary to comply with the Budget Control Act of 2011. However, given the already existing cuts, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) not yet sure if exempting veterans' programs would be allowed under the legislation, Members of Congress have introduced legislation, H.R. 3895 and S. 2128, which would exempt veterans' programs from sequestration.

Our veterans, and their families, have given a lot in service of their country and should not

have to be faced with automatic and indiscriminate cuts to vital programs that are essential to their livelihoods. As Congress begins to consider the Budget Resolution, Congresses response to the FY13 Budget Request, and subsequently begin the appropriations process for FY13, we ask that lawmakers keep in mind our veterans and the programs that are important to their daily lives.

Take Action: You can e-mail the ‘Details’ section or edit as you desire. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. Also, contact friends and family and urge them to use Contact Congress as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to our Director of Legislation, Anthony Wallis, at 703-548-5800 or at Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org.