

October 12, 2023

Dear Senator :

We, the undersigned leaders of organizations in the field of military and Veteran support, on behalf of the millions of Veterans, service members, families, caregivers, and survivors we represent — strongly urge you to take swift action to end the wholesale blockade of promotions of our nation's senior military leaders.

Since February 2023, one Senator has prevented 300 of the most senior key leaders from fully assuming critical roles of responsibility across our armed forces. This itself is shocking. Even more, the cascading effect of this block affects the lives of thousands of individual service members and their families and harms the morale of the entire force. The consequences of this policy are far-reaching and directly impact the morale, readiness and retention of those who defend our freedoms and families. In short, it greatly undermines our national security.

We join the chorus of concerned citizens, Veterans, and civilian leaders calling for an end to this irresponsible action.

Our nation's military and their families must not be used as political pawns. Families are being separated, children's schools and spouse's jobs are being affected, moves and promotions down the chain of command are held up. Many families report feeling discouraged and are rethinking their plans to continue serving in the military.

Legitimate tools exist for Senators to pursue legislative agendas. But it is not and must not be legitimate for one individual to hold the military hostage or arbitrarily interfere with the operations of the armed forces for political ends.

Although the Senate has taken action to ensure the United States is not without a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and to confirm leaders for the three branches of the military that have been without leadership — the Marine Corps and Army— this is not enough. Every single service member — from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to junior enlisted service members — is impacted by the larger promotion block and three votes will not remedy the harm.

We urge you — on behalf of the millions of American military and Veteran families — to find an avenue to end the Tuberville blockade and restore good order to our nation's military. You can prevent military families' loss of faith in their government and further decline in willingness of the next generation to serve their country. This is the time to act, before the repercussions of this action hurt our nation's military more than it can afford.

Air Force Sergeants Association(AFSA)

American Veterans (AMVETS)

Association of Military Banks of America

Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP)

Blue Star Families

Code of Support Foundation

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service (COA)

D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University

Elizabeth Dole Foundation

Independence Fund

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

Jewish War Veterans

Military Child Education Coalition

Military Spouse Chamber of Commerce

Military Women's Memorial Foundation

PsychArmor

RallyPoint

Secure Families Initiatives

Service Women's Action Network

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Vets' Community Connections