

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2013

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the U.S. Army
Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary McHugh,

We write to you today regarding the United States Army's proposal for realignment of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Program.

As representatives of the schools that host the 13 ROTC programs being considered for closure in May 2015, we believe that these programs offer a value to their communities, students, and to the Army that has not been accurately calculated. We urge you to consider looking more closely at each of the programs before making a final decision.

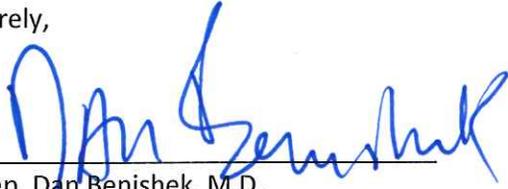
It is our understanding that these programs were targeted at least in part because of a failure to meet a threshold of an average of at least 15 graduates per year over the past five years. In the years following the 9/11 attacks many prospective ROTC students, especially those from rural areas, chose to enlist immediately following high school, rather than wait four years to join the fight in defense of their country. We believe that low graduation rates over the last decade are therefore an ineffective measure of the success of each program.

We would also like a better understanding of the process that led to your decision. Please respond to the following questions.

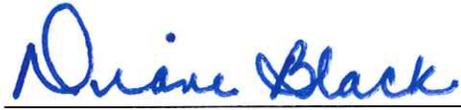
1. Were the affected schools given any notice that they were not meeting certain viability standards set by the Department of Defense (DOD) prior to the decision?
2. How heavily was program excellence considered during the decision process, especially for rural schools?
3. How heavily was cadet performance at the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) considered?
4. How has recent growth in the production of each program been taken into account?
5. What is the total estimated savings of this realignment?
6. What is the total estimated cost of closing these programs, including the cost of accommodating impacted freshmen and sophomores?
7. How was the funding structure of each program, meaning scholarship funding from other non-Army sources such as the National Guard, taken into account?
8. How much, on average, does it cost the Army to produce an officer at each of the affected schools? How does that compare to the ROTC national average?
9. Has the Army restricted the number of commissioned graduates in any class, or in any way limited the ability of an ROTC program to meet or exceed any of the viability criteria?

We look forward to working with you to find a way to keep these programs open for the value they provide to the Army and for the many students and communities they enrich. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Rep. Dan Benishek, M.D.



Rep. Diane Black



Rep. David "Phil" Roe, M.D.



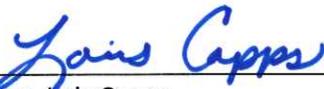
Rep. John Barrow



Rep. Stephen Lee Fincher



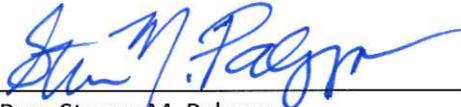
Rep. Ron Kind



Rep. Lois Capps



Rep. Hal Rogers



Rep. Steven M. Palazzo



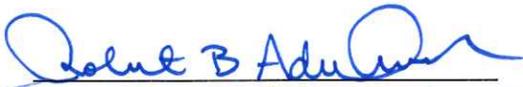
Rep. Kevin Cramer



Rep. Mo Brooks



Rep. Rick Crawford



Rep. Robert B. Aderholt



Rep. Kristi L. Noem