

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2026

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Smith,

We write as a bipartisan, bicameral group of members of Congress who serve on the Boards of Visitors (BOVs) of the Military Service Academies (MSAs). The MSAs provide exemplary undergraduate education and training to develop the next generation of military leaders. The House-passed Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (FY27 NDAA) contains several provisions that will help ensure that the MSAs have the necessary resources to equip future warfighters with the skills required to defend our country. We urge their retention in conference.

The first provision would establish a dedicated Facilities, Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) funding mechanism for the MSAs. While the House-passed language is scoped just for USAFA, a proposed Senate companion amendment would expand this change to include all MSAs. We advocate for including the latter version in the conferenced text, as this change will support the necessary infrastructure investments to modernize all MSA facilities, which are vital to prepare cadets and midshipmen for the contemporary warfighting environment.

The second provision would strengthen the public-private investment relationship for the MSAs. Specifically, it would allow MSA superintendents to contract with affiliated nonprofit organizations for campus modernization projects to accelerate donor-supported capital projects at the academies. Under current anti-deficiency requirements, academy philanthropic foundations must transfer 100 percent of donor funding to the federal government before construction can begin. Authorizing academy foundations to contract directly for capital construction projects, consistent with the authority exercised by many state university foundations, will level the

playing field between the MSAs and public universities, expediting much-needed construction on campuses.

Taken together, these two proposals represent the best path to make a generational investment in our MSAs. Modernized facilities and enhanced programming will ensure our cadets and midshipmen are ready for future warfare. We urge the Committee to include these provisions in the final authorization bill.

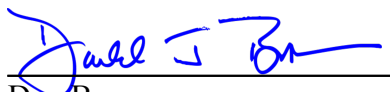
Sincerely,


John Hickenlooper
United States Senator


August Pfluger
Member of Congress


Pat Harrigan
Member of Congress


Jeff Crank
Member of Congress

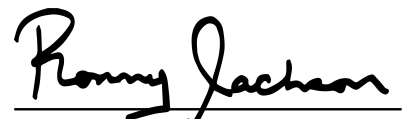

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