

The American Legion



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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January 17, 2014

Honorable Dean Heller
United States Senate
SH-324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
SD-413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heller and Senator Collins:

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion I would like to express support for *S.1931, the Heller-Collins Unemployment Insurance Proposal*, which would reverse the harmful Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) reduction for our military members who are younger than 62 years of age receiving retired pay.

According to The American Legion's Resolution No. 58, *The Department of Defense Military Retirement System*, The American Legion opposes "any changes to the current military retirement system which reduces the incentive for enlistment or re-enlistment."

This legislation offers a package that could pass with bipartisan support, and the proposal includes;

1. A three-month extension of the temporary federal long-term unemployment insurance program;
2. A repeal of the recent cuts in the military retiree cost-of-living adjustment included in December's budget agreement; and
3. Offsets to pay for the unemployment extension and restoring military retiree benefits within the budget window.

Again, The American Legion supports repeal of the COLA provision that was included in the 2013 Bipartisan Budget Agreement, and applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's service members and veterans.

Sincerely,

DANIEL M. DELLINGER
National Commander