



September 18, 2023

The Honorable Tommy Tuberville
455 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tuberville:

On behalf of the 1.5 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and its Auxiliary, I write to call on you to lift your hold on the routine promotion of U.S. military general and flag officers. One of the VFW's top national security priorities is preserving the all-volunteer force. At a time of military recruiting challenges, the instability caused by this hold will have far-reaching consequences for the brave Americans who volunteer to serve in today's military and those who may consider future military service. The VFW called on the Senate to resolve this matter earlier this summer and now we call on you directly to end this hold before we set the very dangerous precedent of harming American service members as leverage in Washington political battles.

The VFW recently conducted a survey in which our members, including veterans in Alabama, overwhelmingly voiced their opinions on this matter. VFW members were clear that political debates in Washington should be handled among civilian political leaders. Moreover, VFW members strongly conveyed that politicians should not be able to harm the troops over political disputes and that political decisions that harm the troops would affect the way they would vote in upcoming elections.

The VFW has already heard from current service members and military families on the far-reaching effects your hold has had on both the mission and the lives of those who choose military service as a career. Preservation of the all-volunteer force demands a non-partisan and apolitical uniformed military capable of closing with and destroying our nation's enemies at the direction of its duly elected and appointed civilian leaders. When policy disputes emerge among these civilian leaders, the VFW cannot allow politicians to set the precedent of harming uniformed service members to make a point.

The world is still a dangerous place and brave Americans remain stationed around the world, intent on keeping these dangers far from our shores. This is why the VFW is calling on you to stop this dangerous game. Games may belong on the football field, but not in the halls of the U.S. Senate. Lift the hold so the Senate may do its job by promoting our uniformed military leaders.

Sincerely,

RYAN M. GALLUCCI
Executive Director
VFW Washington Office

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