



Iowa



Connecticut

February 23, 2016

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman McCain and Senator Reed:

Thank you for acknowledging our letter of January 7, 2016, urging repeal of Section 1053 of the fiscal year (FY) 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). We affirm our support for repeal for the reasons previously stated.

In our Council of Governors meeting on February 19, 2016, senior Department of Defense officials voiced equally grave concerns about the impact elimination of federal technician positions will have on the readiness of forces for overseas deployments and domestic support to civil authorities.

To get this “right”, to use your words, would require repeal or perhaps a statutory amendment this session extending the effective date to October 1, 2017, and establishing an open and transparent process, fully inclusive of governors and our adjutants general, to examine what changes, if any, need to be made to the federal military technician program based on the 2013 Center for Naval Analysis study. If we are unable to reach agreement, repeal remains our preferred course.

Thank you for your commitment to collaboration with the Council and governors on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Governor Terry E. Branstad in blue ink.

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Co-chair

Handwritten signature of Governor Dannel P. Malloy in black ink.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy
Co-chair

CC: House Armed Services Committee leadership