

December 4, 2014

The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Thompson:

On behalf of the 380,000 members of the Military Officers Association of America, I am writing to express my support for your legislation, the Proudly Restoring Officers of Prior Enlistment Retirement (PROPER) Act, to modify existing discharge authority allowing military officers appointed from enlisted ranks with at least 20 years of service, to retire as an officer.

Current drawdown authority requires servicemembers to have at least eight years of service as a commissioned officer in order to retire at the officer rank. But under the strain of deep budget cuts, the Army is forcing former enlisted "mustang" officers with 20 years of service into retirement as part of its force drawdown efforts. Their plan has resulted in several officers being forced to retire at their last enlisted rank leaving their years of service as an officer unrecognized and uncompensated. The financial impact is significant. Some will see a loss of over \$1,000 a month in retired pay.

The PROPER Act would loosen these time-in-service requirements and allow these officers to receive their earned retirement pay based on the standard "high three" system. It also provides these officers with the respect they deserve for their decades of service and sacrifice.

I thank you for your support of our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely, *Best Regards!*

