THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG 22 2006

The Honorable John W. Warner
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The House Armed Services Committee Report accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (House Report 109-89), contains language requesting the Secretary of Defense to develop a "non-monetary benefits package for the person holding the office of president of USUHS." Specifically, the Secretary is requested to "evaluate government furnished housing on the installation of the National Naval Medical Center."

The Department has explored the feasibility of providing quarters for the President, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) on the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), in Bethesda, Maryland. The primary purpose for this is to ensure the USUHS President is accessible to the approximately 1664 on-campus members of the student body, staff, and faculty of USUHS, which is consistent with the purpose of housing for presidents at other quality universities. Thus far, due to demands for quarters exceeding the supply, we have been unable to accomplish the objective identified in the House Report.

We will continue to explore both monetary and non-monetary options to ensure a benefits package for the President of USUHS commensurate with the important leadership role of that office in carrying out the medical mission of the Department.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

cc:
The Honorable Carl Levin
Ranking Member