

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 24, 2021

The Honorable John E. Whitley
Acting Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-1000

Dear Secretary Whitley,

We are writing to you to express our support for the HMMWV Antilock Brake System / Electronic Stability Control (ABS/ESC) program and urge the Army to move forward with this program without delay to ensure that all 54,810 vehicles in the fleet are retrofit within the next five years. We believe that this program is of the utmost importance to ensure the safety of our men and women in uniform. The continued rollovers of vehicles resulting in injury and death of our brave men and women in uniform is unacceptable.

As you know, when modifications were made to the HMMWV to improve ballistic protection to protect it from improvised explosive devices the weight of the vehicle increased and changed the center of gravity. We recognize how critical those modifications were, but the unintended consequence caused the vehicle to become more prone to rollovers. This has not changed and as such it is imperative that we retrofit these vehicles immediately and prevent further injury and death.

We are increasingly concerned about efforts by some to zero out the funding of this program beyond FY21. This program should not be presented as competition to the ongoing efforts to build new HMMWVs or field the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle. It is completely unacceptable that the Army is installing this critical safety kit on only new vehicles and does not intend to move forward with the plan to retrofit the 54,810 vehicles in the fleet that are being used every day. As previously indicated by the Army, these 54,810 vehicles are new or modernized and do not have the ABS/ESC kits on them but will continue to be used until 2050.

This matter has increased in importance given the reported 600 HMMWV rollover incidents resulting more than 150 deaths and 700 injuries in non-combatant operations. Make no mistake, if these upgrades are not completed because of competing interests inside of the Pentagon, we will lose more servicemembers to rollover accidents. That is a risk we are not willing to accept. We cannot delay the retrofit of the existing fleet nor can we rely on of the replacement existing HMMWVs with new vehicles. The cost associated with replacement of 54,810 vehicles will take an investment of \$250,000.00 per vehicle versus \$15,000 per vehicle for rollover mitigation. A cost savings of \$12.9 billion.

With this in mind, we ask you provide our offices with your plan to apply the safety system and retrofit existing vehicles in the fleet as quickly as possible and explain why the Army appears willing to accept this additional risk while wasting billions of taxpayer dollars. We look forward to hearing from you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



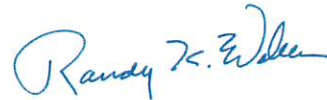
Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



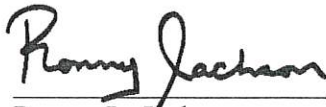
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



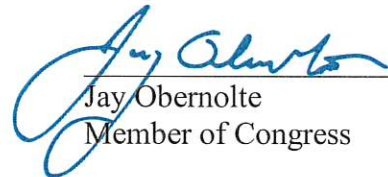
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Member of Congress



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