

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 8, 2006

The Honorable Duncan Hunter  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,


Since Fiscal Year 2003, installation garrison commanders using contracted private security guards have appreciated the cost savings and high quality they receive. The use of privately contracted security guards has made active and reserve soldiers available to complete necessary missions. We are grateful that the House Defense Authorization Bill extends the Department of Defense's authority to hire contractors for one year, however, the Senate legislation does not contain a similar provision. We urge the Senate to recede to the House on Section 323.


While we are pleased with the House inclusion of Section 323, we are concerned about the reporting requirement included in this provision. The reporting requirement seeks DoD's comparison between contract guards and military guards. The private guard program started in FY03 with no preexisting military guard force; hence DoD has no data with which to make a comparison. We are aware of an April, 2006 General Accounting Office critique of the Army's acquisition and management of the program, but we do not believe that this is a justification for the reporting requirement on Section 323. We have been informed that the Army has started corrective measures per the GAO Report.

We would appreciate the Conference's retention of Section 323, excluding the reporting requirement. The continuing Global War on Terror leaves our garrison commanders with no choice but to retain access to contractors to screen entry and secure the perimeters of our installations.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. If we may provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully yours,

  
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JO ANN DAVIS  
Member of Congress

  
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JOE WILSON  
Member of Congress

  
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MIKE ROGERS  
Member of Congress