

Fact Sheet: Down Payment to Protect National Security Act of 2013
---Prevent Another Round of Damaging Cuts to Our Military---

Those of us in Washington need to have the same courage as [our troops] to do the right thing and try to protect the security of this country. We must ensure we have the resources we need to defend the nation and meet our commitments to the troops, to our civilian employees, and to their families, after more than a decade of war. The simple fact -- the simple fact is that this fiscal uncertainty has become a very serious threat to our national security. And like any grave threat that we face, the American people expect and deserve action.

-Secretary Leon Panetta Jan 10, 2013

The Down Payment to Protect National Security Act of 2013 would prevent a further round of cuts in Fiscal Year 2013, beyond the \$46 billion reduction already imposed as part of the President's budget-driven defense strategy, from hitting our military as a result of sequestration. The President's first round of cuts alone significantly reduced military end strength, impacted force readiness, and jeopardized our nuclear deterrent. **Another round of cuts required as a result of sequestration would devastate our Armed Forces.**

OFFSET: This legislation would pay for one year of defense and non-defense sequestration by requiring a reduction in the federal workforce through attrition and a pay freeze for members of Congress. This offset was originally part of the Supercommittee deliberations and was recommended by the President's fiscal commission.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

- This legislation would pay for the first year of sequestration – deferring the disastrous impacts on the military and creating more time to reach a negotiated deal to find the remaining savings mandated by the Budget Control Act.
 - By paying for one year of sequestration now, we can meet the needs of our men and women in uniform- and their families- as we work through difficult political choices.
 - By paying for the deficit reduction otherwise required in 2013, the bill is preferable to the President's plan to pay for sequester with tax hikes and additional defense cuts.
- The legislation would make this down payment by requiring a government-wide reduction in the number of federal employees by 10% through attrition. This would allow federal agencies to hire 1 person for every 3 who leave their employment through attrition. In addition, the legislation would freeze Member of Congress pay.
 - For the Department of Defense, this would return the civilian workforce to its 2009 levels.
 - This offset was part of the supercommittee deliberations.
 - It is a better solution for our government workforce than the 800,000 indiscriminate furloughs under sequestration.
 - This hiring limitation would occur at the agency level, giving the Department of Defense the freedom to meet the requirement in a way that best protects our military readiness.
 - There is also a national security waiver.
- This legislation delivers approximately \$85 billion in savings – sufficient for the first year in the Budget Control Act.
 - Savings is sufficient to pay for sequestration for both defense and non-defense accounts in 2013.
- This legislation provides transfer authority for DoD under a continuing resolution consistent with the Defense Authorization Act for FY13.
- Not all government spending is created equal, and the Constitution is clear that Congress' primary obligation is to defend our nation. Keep in mind that Defense has already been cut dramatically. Even though defense represents approximately 18% of the budget, nearly half of the deficit reduction measures taken to date have come out of the military, to the tune of half a trillion dollars.

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For more information contact: Claude Chafin, HASC 202-225-2539 or Liz Johnson, Senator Ayotte 202-224-3324