

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2026

Brigadier General Sean Crockett, Commander
U.S. Army Cadet Command
Building 1002
204 1st Cavalry Regiment Road Fort
Knox, KY 40121

Dear General Crockett:

We write to you today regarding the U.S. Army Cadet Command's recent decision to terminate the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cross-Town partnership between Emory & Henry University (E&H) and East Tennessee State University (ETSU). This action would effectively end on-campus ROTC courses at Emory and Henry University. As a proud alumnus of Emory & Henry, I join E&H President Louise Fincher, ESTU President Brian Noland, Congresswoman Diana Harshbarger, and Congresswoman Jen Kiggans in support of this partnership and respectfully request an appeal of this decision.

As documented in the letter sent to your office from President Fincher and President Noland, E&H and ETSU have produced numerous cadets who have served our nation with valor and much of this important work continues to this very day. Since 2020, E&H has commissioned five cadets who have served in various capacities with the U.S. Army Reserve as well as the Virginia and North Carolina Army National Guards. Importantly, the program expects to commission a growing number of cadets over the next few academic years.

Additionally, E&H has made important strides in reducing the tuition rate for students to ensure that it meets the cost of attendance standards comparable to other ROTC units. Geographical barriers have also never been an obstacle for these two institutions, as E&H provides transportation for cadets to classes and training exercises, thereby ensuring that the Cross-Town partnership remains a viable program.

E&H has also secured additional ROTC staff to help make their program more self-sufficient and increase coordination with ETSU. Among these individuals are retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Dr. Charles Quillin and retired Army Sergeant Major Mike Swartz. These distinguished veterans have made it their mission to share their extensive knowledge of military affairs with the next generation of our nation's service members. In addition to expanding their

own staff capacities, E&H has also committed to fully reimburse ETSU for the costs associated with sending instructors to E&H.

As President Fincher's and President Noland's letter details, the E&H ROTC program has gone through their fair share of challenges over the last decade, however, despite these obstacles, the program has continued to adapt and overcome. This is even more impressive considering that Emory and Henry University possesses a smaller student body and more limited resources compared to other major institutions of higher learning. Additionally, the faculty of ETSU is fully supportive of continuing this partnership.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that the U.S. Army Cadet Command reevaluate this decision and continue the ROTC Cross-Town partnership between Emory and Henry University and Eastern Tennessee State University. Retaining this partnership will allow students from across Southwest Virginia to continue to have access to pursue military careers and help preserve an important pipeline for officer procurement for our armed services. We appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Jen A. Kiggans
Member of Congress