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Over Sixty Retired Military Brass Support Bipartisan New START Extension

A new letter from the American College of National Security Leaders endorses the extension of New START and strongly urges legislative efforts to protect the treaty.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Over sixty retired senior veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces announced their support for New START extension and related bipartisan legislation in a new letter [LINK](#) released today from the American College of National Security Leaders (ACNSL).

“The American College of National Security Leaders supports the extension of the New START Treaty for an additional five years,” said Brig. General Ricardo Aponte, USAF (Ret.) and COO of ACNSL, in a statement accompanying the letter. “Russia supports its continuation and NATO allies have also expressed support for the Treaty. New START currently guards against a new nuclear arms race between the superpowers as both countries benefit from the agreement due to provisions that increase transparency and reliability between Russia and the United States. With the stroke of a pen, the Treaty can be extended and the extension does not prevent the United States from engaging in other arms control agreements with Russia and others.”

The bipartisan sign-on letter, signed by retired senior leaders from every branch of the military, emphasizes the importance of continuing New START’s strategic weapons caps and rigorous inspection process through a 5-year extension, especially as the current administration aims to create a new nuclear agreement with China.

“With the missteps of our recent past, the United States can ill afford to continue our ‘Global Leadership’ downward slide, knowing that history will not judge us well without a change in vector,” said Lt. General Willie Williams, USMC (Ret.), a member and signatory of the letter. “Global challenges are not new, it’s how we deal with them that makes the difference. We now find ourselves with an alliance that’s teetering and beginning to look in a different direction for that expressed leadership the United States has provided over the years. Extending the New START Treaty for an additional five years can begin to show the change all are looking for.”

Addressed to the leadership of the House and Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, the letter iterates support for any and all legislative efforts that work to protect this vital nuclear treaty, including support of bipartisan legislation, S. 2394 and H.R. 2529.

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The American College of National Security Leaders provides unique and unmatched senior-leader and whole-of-government perspectives on our nation's most critical national security issues. Our members are retired career senior executives who served in positions of extraordinary responsibility developing, leading, and executing U.S. national security policy. The American College of National Security Leaders reflects the non-partisan voice of retired senior government officials who swore to support and defend the constitution without reservation, and continue to do so.