



August 1, 2023

Honorable Members of the 118th Congress

Dear Members of the 118th Congress:

The Military Coalition (TMC), which represents more than 5.5 million current and former uniformed service members, veterans, their families, and survivors, is writing to ask you to support the *Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2023*.

H.R.2693 will ensure that members of the Coast Guard are paid on time when there is a lapse in appropriations. During the last government shutdown, these servicemembers worked without pay for 35 days. Uncertainty of pay and benefits directly contributes to our current recruiting crisis. The provision to continue pay was included in the last Coast Guard Authorization Act, only to be removed when wrapped up into the National Defense Authorization Act due to cost concerns. After each shutdown, uniformed servicemembers receive their backpay and this should negate any administrative budget rule or concern.

During government shutdowns, the dedicated members of the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) professionally continue to safeguard our waterways, conduct dangerous drug interdiction missions, emergency rescue operations, provide early warning of major storms, infectious disease surveillance and critical health care support – all without pay. They serve and sacrifice just as members of DoD – and in fact, take the same oath to preserve and protect the Constitution. Our Nation owes it to them to ensure they are paid on time. We ask that the legislation include the commissioned officers of NOAA and the USPHS for parity. Like their fellow servicemembers in the Department of Defense, members of the Coast Guard, USPHS and NOAA do essential work to protect the security of our nation.

TMC, as represented by those organizations listed on the attached, appreciates your leadership on this important issue and urges you sign on a cosponsor to the *Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act* and ensure timely passage this year.

Sincerely,

President,
The Military Coalition

TMC Organizations:

Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
Air & Space Forces Association (AFA)
American Veterans (AMVETS)
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)
Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)
Marine Corps League (MCL)
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)
Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
The Independence Fund (TIF)
United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)