



September 9, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
568 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million current and former uniformed service members, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors urges you to pass all of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations bills supporting our uniformed services – in particular the Defense Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies' Appropriations (MilCon-VA) – as soon as possible and at no less than the Senate Armed Services Committee-passed levels.

Our nation faces many threats, and our uniformed services operate in a very challenging environment. From responding to Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and the current crisis in the Middle East, China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific, as well as countering the malign activities of North Korea – the uniformed services continue to answer our nation's call around the globe. Domestically, without fail or delay, the uniformed services have executed essential support to civilian authorities during natural disasters of historical scales.

If a continuing resolution (CR) is required to avert a harmful and counterproductive government shutdown, it should be a short one. Funding the government at last year's rate diminishes national security and the capabilities of the uniformed services (both Regular and Reserve Components) by hurting readiness, modernization, and quality-of-life programs. Uniformed service members who have concerns regarding quality-of-life issues cannot dedicate their full attention to the mission. The negative impact to quality of life will do nothing but harm those who are currently serving and will paint a negative picture for any recruiting efforts from an already scant pool of eligible candidates. CRs also do not permit new starts or increase the level of investment in modernization priorities. Further, new family housing and barracks projects cannot be started. Delaying funding damages our defense posture nationally and globally. CRs also hurt the defense industrial base, including small businesses, by adding uncertainty to the procurement and manufacturing

processes. CRs damage the joint force's ability to prepare to fight and win in the future and impedes readiness to counter threats today.

Further, our nation's service members, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors deserve the best possible health care including mental health care as well as timely claims and rating decisions. Shutdowns and CRs hinder new investments to enhance care for beneficiaries, the ability to hire additional health and mental health professionals, and improve facilities.

We believe that a strong national defense begins at home. The uniformed services, their families, our veterans and survivors benefit from on-time appropriate domestic spending which contributes to national security.

As such, TMC, as represented by the organizations listed below, urge you to swiftly pass all twelve FY 2025 appropriations bills as soon as possible. This would provide the predictability and resources commensurate with the demonstrated need and the urgency that our national security challenges require, and our service members, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors have earned.

Thank you for your continued service to our nation in Congress.

Sincerely,



President,  
The Military Coalition

The Military Coalition:

Air and Space Force Association (AFA)

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)

Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)

Association of the United States Army (AUSA)

Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)

Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)

Blue Star Families

Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service (COA)

Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)

Gold Star Wives of America

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)

Jewish War Veterans of the US (JWV)

Marine Corps League

Military Chaplains Association

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW)  
National Military Family Association  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)  
Non-Commissioned Officers Association of the USA (NCOA)  
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)  
Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)  
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)  
US Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)  
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association &  
Enlisted Association (USCGCPOA)  
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)