



## THE MILITARY COALITION

201 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

December 14, 2017

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

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Chairman Cochran, and Ranking Member Leahy:

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members, veterans and their families and survivors, strongly encourages you to pass the Fiscal Year 2018 Defense Appropriations bill before funding expires on December 22, 2017. We remain a nation at war, our uniformed services are suffering from dangerous readiness and force structure issues, and the total force simply cannot remain effective, absent adequate and timely budgets.

Another continuing resolution (CR) would stymie the services' ability to grow, equip, and train the total force necessary to meet today's dynamic and growing threats. The services would be dealt the crippling strain of funding obsolete programs, while being prevented from starting new programs that combatant commanders need. Resources would tighten severely, procurement programs would languish, and billions of taxpayer dollars would be wasted. Tragically, casualties would include mission-critical training – including cancellation of reserve component training, crucial for operational mission support – and required maintenance. Military families would suffer with inadequate maintenance and upgrades to military installations, and significant delays in household moves. They deserve better and as the services seek to grow, their care is crucial to overall retention of their service member sponsors.

Six years after the Budget Control Act (BCA), sequestration, and artificial defense spending caps, the world has become more unstable, and military personnel pay, benefits, and quality of life programs have suffered. Military modernization, training, and other essential readiness programs have been adversely impacted. CRs devastate readiness, waste resources and endanger warfighters. Our national security requires stable, predictable funding and prudent long-range planning. Another CR is simply dangerous.

Please pass a full defense budget by December 22, 2017, to adequately support the millions of service members, civilians, veterans, and military families who serve or have served our great nation.

Sincerely,  
The Military Coalition  
(Signatures enclosed)

Air Force Association  
Air Force Sergeants Association  
Air Force Women Officers Associated  
AMVETS (American Veterans)  
Army Aviation Association of America  
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals  
Association of the United States Army  
Association of the United States Navy  
Chief Warrant & Warrant Officers Association, USCG  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States  
Fleet Reserve Association  
Gold Star Wives  
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America  
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America  
Marine Corps League  
Marine Corps Reserve Association  
Military Officers Association of America  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
National Military Family Association  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association  
Non Commissioned Officers Association  
Reserve Officers Association  
Service Women's Action Network  
The Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
United States Army Warrant Officers Association  
United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Wounded Warrior Project