



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

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February 5, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

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 a Fiscal Year 2018 Defense Appropriations bill before funding expires on February 8, 2018. 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.

A fifth Continuing Resolution (CR), extending five months into the fiscal year, 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, 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 are adversely impacted. Continuing Resolutions devastate readiness, waste resources and endanger warfighters. Our national security requires stable, predictable funding and prudent long-range planning.

Please pass a Fiscal Year 2018 Defense Appropriations bill by February 8, 2018 to adequately support the millions of service members, civilians, and military families who serve 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 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 Guard Association of the United States
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