



June 12, 2024

The Honorable Ron Wyden
U.S. Senate
By e-mail

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senate
By e-mail

The Honorable Mazie Hirono
U.S. Senate
By e-mail

Dear Senators Wyden, Duckworth, and Hirono:

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million service members, veterans, their families, and survivors, *thanks you* for advocating for \$32 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 funding to sustain the U.S. Public Health Service Ready Reserve Corps (UPSHS RRC).

Despite having a rich history dating back to 1798, the USPHS did not have a reserve capability until the signing of Public Law No: 116-136, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*, in 2020.

Endorsed by twelve former and acting U.S. Surgeons General, the USPHS RRC is part of a larger modernization effort to ensure Total Force readiness and public health preparedness.

While the *CARES Act* successfully established a preliminary framework for the proper and effective usage of the USPHS RRC, it failed to provide the proper “tools” for recruiting and retaining qualified talent.

This is why the USPHS RRC has not yet realized its desired end-strength, which presumably prompted the revocation of \$84 million in funding for the USPHS RRC via Public Law No: 118-5, the *Fiscal Responsibility Act*.

Despite this, the USPHS RRC has demonstrated its worth. Examples include augmenting the National Guard Bureau’s medical teams by delivering needed medical and public health expertise during COVID-19, supporting the Operation Allies Welcome safe haven and resettlement missions to ensure evacuees received medical care, and delivering no-cost healthcare to vulnerable populations through the Department of Defense’s (DoD) innovative readiness training missions.

Restoring funding for the USPHS RRC will maximize the medical capabilities and readiness of the Total Force, which TMC wholeheartedly endorses.

Thank you again for your advocacy. TMC stands ready to work with you and your staff to secure this funding and consider an expanded role for the USPHS RRC to further augment DoD’s medical corps.

Respectfully,

Jack Du Teil
President
The Military Coalition

The Military Coalition

Air and Space Forces Association (AFA)

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)

American Veterans (AMVETS)

Association of the U.S. Navy (AUSN)

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

USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)

Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)

Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)

Jewish War Veterans of America (JWV)

Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)

Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)

National Military Family Association (NMFA)

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Reserve Organization of America (ROA)

Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)

United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)