



September 15, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger:

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA), National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), Reserve Organization of America (ROA), and U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) are grateful for your leadership in the House of Representatives and Senate. We urge you to pass all of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations bills, and, in particular the Defense Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations (MilCon-VA) bills as soon as possible.

As you know, our nation faces many threats, including responding to the continued unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine, Chinese aggression in the Pacific, Iranian and North Korean malign activities, the evolving pandemic, the impact of inflation, and domestic response for floods and wildfires. Thus, passing full-year appropriations bills before the end of the FY and including funding at least at the level authorized in *S. 4543, the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023*, is critical.

Continuing Resolutions (CRs) diminish national security and the capabilities of the Armed Forces (both Regular and Reserve Components) by hurting readiness, modernization, and quality of life programs. CRs do not permit the Armed Forces to make new starts or increase the level of investment in modernization priorities. Further, new family or service member housing projects cannot be started. At a time when recruitment presents a significant challenge across the Armed Forces, a CR would not be helpful. CRs also hurt the defense industrial base, including small businesses, by adding uncertainty to the procurement and manufacturing processes. Clearly, CRs hurt the joint force's ability to prepare to fight and win in the future and impedes readiness to counter threats today.

Additionally, our nation's veterans deserve the best possible care. CRs hinder new investments to enhance care for veterans, hire additional health professionals, safeguard our veterans from the pandemic, and improve facilities.



Once again, we urge you to swiftly pass the FY23 Defense and MilCon-VA 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 veterans have earned.

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

Sincerely,

Robert B. Brown
General, U.S. Army, Retired
President and CEO
Association of the United States Army

J. Roy Robinson
Brigadier General (Ret.)
President, NGAUS

Jeffrey E. Phillips
Maj. Gen., U.S. Army (Ret.)
Executive Director
Reserve Organization of America

Jack Du Teil
National Executive Director
U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association