September 14, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker, Senator McConnell, Ms. Pelosi, and Senator Reid:

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) urges you to work together to avoid an extended continuing resolution (CR) or a government shutdown in Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16).

During the first part of this year, there was reason for optimism that Congress would return to regular order and pass the authorization and appropriations bills on time. However, I note with disappointment that once again an impasse has been reached over FY16 funding levels. Members of Congress have increasingly alluded to the possibility of an extended, or even a year-long, CR.

As you know, an extended CR would be extremely detrimental to our Army, our national security and our economy. The inefficiency created by a CR wastes significant amounts of taxpayer money. Further, a long-term CR increases the risk to our soldiers because it reduces our Army’s flexibility to respond to pressing operational needs. Finally, it reduces American global stature when we repeatedly demonstrate governmental dysfunction instead of regular order.

Our country needs to avoid a government shutdown with a short CR, followed immediately by a multi-year budget deal that will create stability and efficiency in our spending. I implore you to begin negotiations now and find a budget compromise that both chambers of Congress can pass and the President will sign into law.

Thank you for your service to our country and your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, USA Retired
CC:
Denis McDonough, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff
The Honorable Ash Carter, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable John McCain, Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
The Honorable Mac Thornberry, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Vice Chairwoman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee
The Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee