



August 29, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA), Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), Global Special Operations Forces Foundation (GSOFF), National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), Reserve Organization of America, and U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) urge you to pass all of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations bills supporting our uniformed services – in particular the Defense Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies' Appropriations (MilCon-VA) bills – as soon as possible and at no less than the Senate Armed Services Committee-passed levels.

Our nation faces many threats, and our uniformed services operate in a very challenging environment. From responding to Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and the current crisis in the Middle East, China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific, as well as countering the malign activities of North Korea – the uniformed services continue to answer our nation's call around the globe. Domestically, without fail or delay, the uniformed services have provided essential support to civilian authorities during natural disasters of historical scales.

If a continuing resolution (CR) is required to avert a harmful and counterproductive government shutdown, it should be a short one. Funding the government at last year's rate diminishes national security and the capabilities of the uniformed services (both Regular and Reserve Components) by hurting readiness, modernization, and quality-of-life programs. Uniformed service members who have concerns regarding quality-of-life issues cannot dedicate their full attention to the mission. The negative impact to quality of life will do nothing but harm those who are currently serving and could harm recruiting efforts. CRs also do not permit new starts or increase the level of investment in modernization priorities. New family housing and barracks projects cannot be started. Delaying funding damages our defense posture. CRs also hurt the defense industrial base, including small businesses, by adding uncertainty to the procurement and manufacturing processes. CRs damage the joint force's ability to prepare to fight and win in the future and impedes readiness to counter threats today.

Further, our nation's service members, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors deserve the best possible health care. Shutdowns and CRs hinder new investments to enhance care for beneficiaries, the ability to hire additional health professionals, and improve facilities.

We believe that a strong national defense begins at home. The uniformed services, their families, our veterans, and survivors, benefit from on-time appropriate domestic spending which contributes to national security.

As such, we urge you to swiftly pass all twelve FY 2025 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 service members, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors have earned.

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

Sincerely,




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



Daniel B. Reilly
Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force Retired
President, Enlisted Association of the National
Guard of the United States



Stuart Bradin
President & Chief Executive Officer
Global Special Operations Forces Foundation



Francis M. McGinn
Major General (Ret.), U.S. Army
President, National Guard Association of the United
States



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



Cara Rinkoff
National Executive Director
U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association