



March 15, 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), and U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) urge you to pass all the remaining Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations bills, and in particular the Defense Appropriations bill, by March 22. A full-year Continuing Resolution (CR) harms national security, the Armed Forces, our service members and military families, and is a wasteful use of taxpayer dollars. We also ask that you swiftly provide additional funding to the Army and the Department of Defense (DoD) commensurate with the stark threats facing our nation and the responsibilities the Armed Forces are shouldering across the globe.

As you know, our nation faces numerous threats, and our service members operate in one of the most complex and challenging security environments in decades. From Chinese aggression and growing North Korean capabilities in the Indo-Pacific, to the crisis in the Middle East, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the escalating threat of terrorism, our nation's interests and its security are at risk. Domestic emergencies like wildfires and floods frequently also require service members to execute critical missions in support of civilian authorities. This makes sufficient and timely funding vital to national security and to the well-being of our service members and their families.

Clearly, a full-year CR would be damaging to national security and a wasteful use of resources. In particular, a full-year CR diminishes service member readiness and undermines critical modernization efforts by preventing new starts and misaligning billions of taxpayer funds. As has been demonstrated by the conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, significant investment in the industrial base is required to ensure that our service members always have what they need to accomplish overmatch in a protracted high-end conflict. A CR jeopardizes that.

Service member quality-of-life and recruitment initiatives also suffer as a result of CRs. CRs also hurt small businesses and the defense industrial base by adding unneeded uncertainty to the manufacturing and procurement processes.

We believe that a strong national defense begins at home, and our service members, their families and the Armed Forces benefit from adequate domestic spending. Whether educating the next generation of service members and scientists or making important investments in public safety and economic development, our national security and competitiveness are underpinned by domestic spending, too. Further, the image of the

United States stumbling from one self-inflicted fiscal crisis to another while failing to provide timely and sufficient funding to its Armed Forces during a period of unprecedented conflict and competition surely reduces our security and global standing. Our allies and partners are watching and are not reassured. Our adversaries, however, are emboldened by what they see.

We urge you to pass all remaining appropriations bills no later than March 22. We also ask that you quickly add additional funding for the Army and DoD. This will provide the resources commensurate with the urgency that our service members and national security challenges require.

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



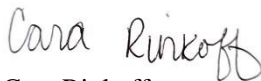
Daniel B. Reilly
Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force Retired
President, Enlisted Association of the National
Guard of the United States



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



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