



NGAUS

Reserve
Organization of
America



March 7, 2023

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 Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn 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 McCarthy, and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA), Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), Reserve Organization of America (ROA), and United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) are grateful for your leadership in Congress. We urge you to ensure that funding commensurate with the demands placed on, and reflective of, the serious national security challenges our nation faces is provided to the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Army. Countering our nation's adversaries requires increased defense spending but also a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. As such, we caution you against reportedly arbitrary budget cuts to defense and non-defense spending.

We are in what has been described as the "decisive decade" and our nation faces many severe threats. From an increasingly capable and aggressive China, the continued unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine, Iranian and North Korean malign activities, impact of inflation, to floods and wildfires, our Soldiers are answering our nation's call. The reportedly arbitrary budget cuts described by some are not appropriate at this time.

It is intuitive that budget cuts to DoD or the Army diminish national security and the capabilities of our service members (both Regular and Reserve Components) by hurting readiness, modernization, and quality of life programs. It will likely make it more difficult to increase the level of investment in modernization priorities – which is critical to ensuring overmatch and future readiness. Similarly, new family or service member housing projects may not be able to be started. At a time when recruitment presents a significant challenge across the Armed Forces, cuts could exacerbate shortfalls in end strength. Budget cuts could also hurt the defense industrial base, including small businesses, by adding uncertainty to the procurement and manufacturing processes – potentially cutting American jobs.

We also caution against reported arbitrary budget cuts to non-defense spending. A strong national defense begins at home and our service members, their families, and the Armed Forces benefit from appropriate domestic spending. For example, whether providing certain health care and services to veterans, investing in the industrial base, educating the next generation of Soldiers and scientists, important investments in public safety, or improving infrastructure to move goods and provide services – our national security and competitiveness are underpinned by domestic spending, too.

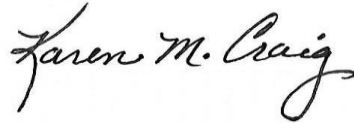
We urge you and your colleagues to provide the predictability and resources commensurate with the demonstrated need and urgency that our national security challenges require.

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

Sincerely,



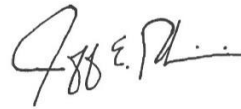
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