



December 8, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Leahy, and Vice Chairman Shelby:

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members, veterans and their families and survivors, 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 supporting our uniformed services, including 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, and our uniformed services operate in a very challenging environment. From responding to Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific, as well as countering the malign activities of Iran and North Korea – the uniformed services continue to answer our nation's call across the globe. Domestically, the uniformed services provide essential support to civilian authorities by assisting during natural disasters and have played a significant role during the pandemic. The numerous demands on the uniformed services are complicated by the impact of inflation which erodes purchasing power. Thus, quickly passing full-year appropriations bills 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 uniformed services (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 uniformed services, 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.

As Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin stated in his recent letter urging passage of full-year funding, “[we] can’t outcompete China with our hands tied behind our back three, four, five or six months of every fiscal year.” We agree.

Once again, we urge you to swiftly pass all the FY23 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,



President,
The Military Coalition

TMC Organizations:

Air Force Association (AFA)
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)
Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)
Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)
Iraq Afghanistan Veterans Association (IAVA)
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)
Marine Corps League (MCL)
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)
Service Women’s Action Network (SWAN)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
Vets First, United Spinal Association
Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)