



## THE MILITARY COALITION

201 North Washington Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

December 14, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
233 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Lowey:

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members, veterans and their families and survivors, strongly encourages you to pass the Fiscal Year 2018 Defense Appropriations bill before funding expires on December 22, 2017. We remain a nation at war, our uniformed services are suffering from dangerous readiness and force structure issues, and the total force simply cannot remain effective, absent adequate and timely budgets.

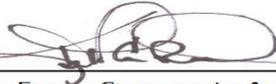
Another continuing resolution (CR) would stymie the services' ability to grow, equip, and train the total force necessary to meet today's dynamic and growing threats. The services would be dealt the crippling strain of funding obsolete programs, while being prevented from starting new programs that combatant commanders need. Resources would tighten severely, procurement programs would languish, and billions of taxpayer dollars would be wasted. Tragically, casualties would include mission-critical training – including cancellation of reserve component training, crucial for operational mission support – and required maintenance. Military families would suffer with inadequate maintenance and upgrades to military installations, and significant delays in household moves. They deserve better and as the services seek to grow, their care is crucial to overall retention of their service member sponsors.

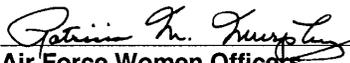
Six years after the Budget Control Act (BCA), sequestration, and artificial defense spending caps, the world has become more unstable, and military personnel pay, benefits, and quality of life programs have suffered. Military modernization, training, and other essential readiness programs have been adversely impacted. CRs devastate readiness, waste resources and endanger warfighters. Our national security requires stable, predictable funding and prudent long-range planning. Another CR is simply dangerous.

Please pass a full defense budget by December 22, 2017, to adequately support the millions of service members, civilians, veterans, and military families who serve or have served our great nation.

Sincerely,  
The Military Coalition  
(Signatures enclosed)

  
Air Force Association

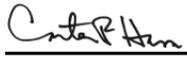
  
Air Force Sergeants Association

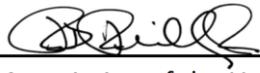
  
Air Force Women Officers  
Associated

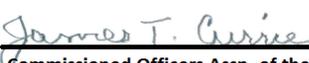
  
AMVETS

  
Army Aviation Association of America

  
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals

  
Association of the United States Army

  
Association of the United States Navy

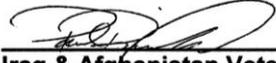
  
Commissioned Officers Assn. of the US Public  
Health Service, Inc

  
CWOA, US Coast Guard

  
Enlisted Association of the National  
Guard of the US

  
Fleet Reserve Association

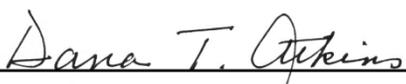
  
Gold Star Wives of America

  
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans  
of America

  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

  
Marine Corps League

  
Marine Corps Reserve Association

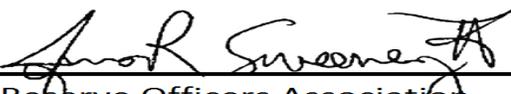
  
Military Officers Association of America

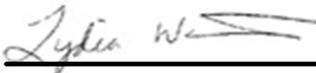
  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

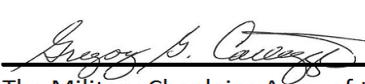
  
National Military Family Association

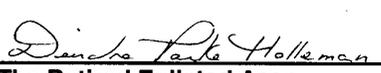
  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.

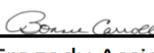
  
Non Commissioned Officers Assn.  
of the United States of America

  
Reserve Officers Association

  
Service Women's Action Network

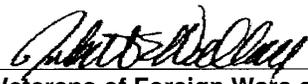
  
The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

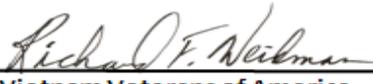
  
The Retired Enlisted Assn.

  
Tragedy Assistance Program for  
Survivors

  
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

  
US Army Warrant Officers Assn.

  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US

  
Vietnam Veterans of America

  
Wounded Warrior Project