



THE MILITARY COALITION

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

December 14, 2017

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

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

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Chairman Cochran, and Ranking Member Leahy:

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.

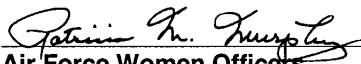
Six years after the Budget Control Act (BCA), sequestration, and artificial defense spending caps, the world has become more unstable, and military personnel pay, benefits, and quality of life programs have suffered. Military modernization, training, and other essential readiness programs have been adversely 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

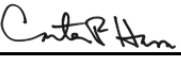

Air Force Sergeants Association


Air Force Women Officers
Associated

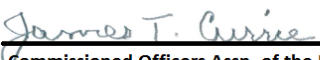

AMVETS


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

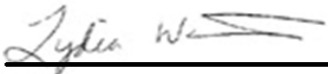

Military Order of the Purple Heart


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

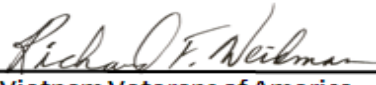

The Retired Enlisted Assn.


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