



THE MILITARY COALITION

201 North Washington Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Diane Black
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
B-234 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Yarmuth
Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
B-234 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Black and Ranking Member Yarmuth:

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members, veterans and their families and survivors, writes to strongly encourage you to repeal the caps on defense spending set by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

These caps were inflicted after the Pentagon had already planned to reduce spending by \$487 billion over a 10-year period. As a result, defense spending is at or near its lowest levels since the end of the Second World War, when measured as a percentage of gross domestic product.

More than six years after sequestration was created, the world is even more unstable, and its impact has threatened military personnel pay, benefits, and quality of life programs; in addition to mission-critical military modernization, training, and other essential readiness programs.

In recent testimony members of Congress and service chiefs alike have testified to this, suggesting our military is becoming a hollow force and prescribing additional funding over a period of years, to deal with substantial readiness issues and to ensure the welfare of service members and their families. We appreciate Congress already recognizing the urgency of addressing national security readiness issues, and providing temporary relief with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017.

Our national security requires significantly more robust, stable, predictable funding and long-range planning capabilities. We can no longer afford to require our warfighters to develop defense strategies around budget constraints – rather, we must fund them adequately to perform their vital mission in defending our nation and her interests. To do otherwise is dangerous, particularly in the face of alarming growth in the war fighting capabilities of potential enemies around the globe.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this action and your continued support of our service members, civilians, veterans, and military families.

Sincerely,
The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)

Denise Hollywood
Air Force Association

[Signature]
Air Force Sergeants Association

E. J. Sinclair
Army Aviation Association of America

[Signature]
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals

Carl R. Hen
Association of the United States Army

Gary E. Hill
Association of the United States Navy

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

Carol Setteducato
CWOA, US Coast Guard

[Signature]
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the US

Thomas Lee
Fleet Reserve Association

Harriet Boyden
Gold Star Wives of America

[Signature]
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America

Norman Rosenbergs
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

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Marine Corps Reserve Association

Dana T. Atkins
Military Officers Association of America

[Signature]
Military Order of the Purple Heart

[Signature]
National Guard Assn. of the US

[Signature]
National Military Family Association

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Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.

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Non Commissioned Officers Assn. of the United States of America

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Reserve Officers Association

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Service Women's Action Network

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The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

[Signature]
The Retired Enlisted Assn.

[Signature]
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

[Signature]
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

[Signature]
US Army Warrant Officers Assn.

[Signature]
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US