



December 11, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Shelby, and Vice Chairman 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 (FY) 2020 appropriation bills for Defense, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and related agencies before the current continuing resolution (CR) expires on December 20, 2019. We remain a nation at war. The total force simply cannot remain effective, absent adequate and timely defense authorizations and appropriations passed by the Congress.

TMC has applauded Congress' timely passage of FY 2019 DoD authorizations for the first time in a decade, together with appropriations necessary to fund it. Last year's on-time Defense and Military Construction Appropriations provided important funding stability to build readiness and conduct the process to modernize our Armed Forces. As you know, by contrast, CRs stymie the Military Services' ability to grow, equip, and train the total force – Regular, Guard, Reserve, and Civilians – necessary to meet today's dynamic and growing threats.

Under continued use of CRs, the crippling strain is incrementally worsened by preventing the Military Services from starting new programs that are needed to improve readiness, lethality and overmatch. Resources tighten severely, procurement programs languish, and taxpayer dollars cannot be spent where most needed. Continuing the use of CRs would further jeopardize training, maintenance, modernization, and quality of life programs, in addition to critical programs impacting our nation's 20 million veterans.

In summary, our national security requires stable, predictable funding and prudent long-range planning. Please pass these crucial authorizations and appropriations bills by December 20, 2019, to protect our national security and to support our Armed Forces, their families, and our nation's veterans.

Sincerely,

Jack Du Teil  
President,  
The Military Coalition  
See attached list of organizations

Air Force Association (AFA)  
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)  
Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)  
Association of the Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)  
Association of the United States Army (AUSA)  
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)  
Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)  
Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)  
Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service (COA)  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)  
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 Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)  
National Military Family Association (NMFA)  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)  
Non-Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America (NCOA)  
Reserve Officers Association (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 (VetsFirst)  
Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)