



October 28, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Senate Republican Whip
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Senate Democratic Whip
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Republican Whip Barrasso, Minority Leader Schumer, and Democratic Whip Durbin,

Our National Guard and Reserves are a vital asset to the Nation's defense both at home and abroad. The Guard and Reserves comprise nearly 40% of the Joint Force with over a million personnel and on their behalf, we urge you to pass appropriations to ensure we care for those who defend the Nation. The government shutdown hurts all government employees but the impact on the Guard and Reserve is uniquely painful. We respectfully request that Congress either pass a Continuing Resolution or a stand-alone bill to pay our Active Guard and Reserve (AGRs), Training and Administration of Reserve (TAR) members, technicians (both dual status and civilian), and our drilling Guard and Reserve members.

Since the start of the Government Shutdown on October 1, 2025, the Reserve Components' ability to continue to train and maintain military readiness has been severely hindered. Undue hardships have been placed on both service members and their families to include some providers denying TRICARE healthcare coverage for dependents during shutdown. Guard and Reserve members get 39 days a year to train so any disruption in training, schools, and maintenance present downstream negative impacts on warfighting readiness. As drill weekends are cancelled and critical personnel are furloughed, equipment and personnel readiness continue to degrade.

Therefore, on behalf of the members of our organizations, we urge Congress to end this shutdown by finding a compromise to fund the federal government through passage of the annual appropriation bills, a Continuing Resolution, or stand-alone legislation which will pay our AGR/TARs, technicians, and our Selected Reservists. It is crucial that we fund our National Guard and Reserves to ease their financial burden and maintain strategic readiness.

We appreciate your consideration of this critical issue for the Nation's Guard and Reserve.

Sincerely,

Francis M. McGinn
Major General (Ret.), U.S. Army
President
National Guard Association of the United States

Francis J. Evon
Major General, U.S. Army
President
Adjutants General Association of the United States

John B. Hashem
Major General (Ret.), U.S. Army
Executive Director
Reserve Organization of America

John Gipe
Command Sergeant Major (Ret.), U.S. Army
Executive Director
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S.