



September 29, 2025

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

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

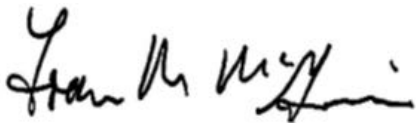
On behalf of the uniformed services represented by our respective organizations, we urge you to pass the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation legislation relating to Defense, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs to prevent a government shutdown. A government closure would have severe consequences on the total force, undermining readiness and the ability to prepare and respond to our nation's threats.

The United States faces an unprecedented array of challenges - both abroad and at home - that demand a ready, well-resourced, and modern military. Our adversaries continue to challenge U.S. interests and security that impact the lives of every American. While much of our attention focuses on foreign adversaries, we cannot ignore the threats emerging within our own borders. Cyberattacks, transnational crime, natural disasters, and other threats require unimpeded capabilities of our total force. Protecting the homeland and the life of every American is our number one concern. Funding the government and avoiding a shutdown ensures the strategic readiness of the joint force.

Operating under a continuing resolution will severely undermine our nation's ability to respond to these threats by freezing funding at outdated levels, preventing new program starts, and delaying modernization efforts. In the event of a government shutdown, we urge you to pass *H.R.5401 – Pay our Troops Act*, to ensure service members and civilians receive the proper pay and allowances.

We urge you to act swiftly and decisively to pass the FY26 Appropriations and ensure the United States remains strong, secure, and prepared to meet today's challenges and tomorrow's uncertainties. Thank you for your continued service to our nation and your support for our nation's troops.

Sincerely,



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