



National Guard Association of the United States

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October 23, 2025

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

The Honorable Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Republican Whip Barrasso, and Sen. Johnson,

On behalf of the nearly 45,000 members of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), and the over 433,000 soldiers and airmen of the National Guard, I wanted to express support for Sen. Ron Johnson's bill S.3012, the Shutdown Fairness Act, which would pay federal employees working during the government shutdown. However, I respectfully request you amend the legislation to include National Guardsmen serving as Title 32 Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) members and Dual Status Technicians (DST).

During the government shutdown, your National Guard has continued to operate and maintain warfighting readiness. Comprising 42% of the combat power of the Army and 30% of the combat power of the Air Force, the National Guard is critical to our Nation's strategic readiness. Today, about 21 states have military technicians who are excepted employees and countless National Guard soldiers and airmen who are mobilized across the Nation. With only 39 days a year to maintain readiness requirements, a loss of even one day hurts our ability to meet those standards. This situation places undue hardship on both the servicemember and their families.

We appreciate your consideration of this critical issue for our Soldiers and Airmen as they fulfill their role as the nation's primary combat reserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis M. McGinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "M".

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