



October 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the members represented by our respective organizations and the over 1 million members of the Reserve Component, we ask you to swiftly pass H.R.5401 - Pay Our Troops Act of 2026, introduced by Congresswoman Jen Kiggans and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Our country relies upon the National Guard and Reserve to protect the homeland and provide domestic response at a moment's notice. As you know, a government shutdown significantly disrupts that mission. Cancelled drill weekends and training degrades readiness. Asking servicemembers to report for duty with no pay degrades morale and creates undue hardship on military families.

The Pay Our Troops Act provides the necessary funds to support our nation's Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees until regular appropriations are passed into law, or through January 1, 2027.

We appreciate your consideration as we work together to ensure our Armed Forces and Department of Department civilians receive the proper pay to carry out their vital role in our national security. Thank you for your continued support of the National Guard and Reserves.

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
Adjutant 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.