



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

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January 16, 2019

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Van Drew
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Thune and Representative Van Drew:

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members, veterans and their families and survivors, strongly supports S. 21/ H.R. 350, the *Pay Our Coast Guard Act of 2019*. This legislation would ensure that members of the Coast Guard are paid on time even when there is a lapse in appropriations. Thank you for introducing this important legislation in support of our service men and women. We ask that the legislation be expanded to include commissioned officers of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Public Health Service (PHS), many of whom are detailed to agencies affected by the current shutdown.

Like their fellow members of the Uniformed Services, members of the Coast Guard, PHS and NOAA do essential work to protect the security of our nation. During the current government shutdown, they continue to safeguard our waterways, intercept attempts to smuggle drugs and other contraband, and provide health care in prisons and on Native American reservations, among many other vital functions – all without pay. They serve and sacrifice just as members of the armed forces do – and in fact, they take the same oath to preserve and protect the Constitution. Our Nation owes it to them to ensure they are paid on time.

The *Pay Our Coast Guard Act* takes an important first step by enabling members of the Coast Guard to receive their pay even in the event of a government shutdown or lapse of appropriations. The TMC supports this legislation and asks that it be extended to cover the other members of the Uniformed Services.

Thank you again for introducing this legislation and we look forward to Congress taking swift action on this important issue.

Sincerely,
The Military Coalition

(Signatures enclosed)

Cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Charles Schumer
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy

Air Force Association
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Army Aviation Association of America
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals
Association of the United States Navy
Chief Warrant & Warrant Officers Association, USCG
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.
Fleet Reserve Association
Gold Star Wives
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America
Marine Corps League
Marine Corps Reserve Association
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the Purple Heart
National Guard Association of the United States
National Military Family Association
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Non Commissioned Officers Association
Reserve Officers Association
Service Women's Action Network
The Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America
The Retired Enlisted Association
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
United States Army Warrant Officers Association
United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Vietnam Veterans of America
Wounded Warrior Project

Military Coalition Letter in re: January 16, 2019