



3 January 2019

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Thune:

On behalf of Sea Service Family Foundation, The American Legion, Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Association, Coast Guard Enlisted Association, Chief Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Association of the United States Coast Guard, Fleet Reserve Association our more than 2.5 million supporters and members, and the below signed associations, we applaud you in introducing S. 21, the Pay Our Coast Guard Act. The impact this shutdown has had on our men and women of the Coast Guard has been unnecessary and caused a serious amount of stress during the holidays.

In order to conduct operations as normal, this act provides for sums as necessary to provide pay and allowances to members of the Coast Guard, including reserve components who perform active service and inactive duty training, as well as the retirees who dedicated their careers in defense of our nation. This act also calls for pay for civilian employees of the Coast Guard, and such sums as necessary to provide pay and allowances to contractors of the Coast Guard.

Our Coast Guard personnel carry out an expansive multi-mission responsibility as it relates to both national and homeland security. This current government shutdown and any such future situations of this nature brings a severe hardship on our active duty members, who work in the same capacity as their military counterparts of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force.

In addition, this government shutdown will pose an extreme hardship on Coast Guard and other social services relief programs such as the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, which by its charter is available to assist personnel for financial needs under circumstances of this nature.

No member of our military service should ever live in fear of not being paid. While we applaud your efforts to fix this injustice that would have led to the loss of pay for our Coast Guard during a shutdown, we are encouraged by your leadership, to start discussions to ensure our men and women of the Armed Forces are protected from losing pay, in the event of future shutdowns. We would encourage your office to work with our coalition in the 116th Congress as we strive to find legislation, that would address this issue, that is becoming a normal for the men and women of the Military.

As a coalition of Military and Veteran Service Organizations, we stand behind you in seeing this legislation passed, and look forward to working with you to get it onto the Presidents desk.



Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the Military community by working to improve the lives and careers of those who serve our great nation.

Very Respectfully,

*Sea Service Family, Foundation
Coast Guard Enlisted Association
The American Legion
Vietnam Veterans of America
Military Order of Purple Heart
Military Officers Association of America
Association of the United States Army
Air Force Association
Non-Commissioned Officers Association
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Service Women's Action Network
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
Army and Navy Union
Military Order of World Wars
Navy League of the United States
US Army Warrant Officers Association*

*Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association
CWOA, USCG
Veterans of Foreign Wars
American Veterans (AMVETS)
The Independence Fund
Reserve Officers Association
Association of the United States Navy
Marine Corps Reserve Association
National Military Family Association
Fleet Reserve Association
Armed Forces Retirees Association
American Military Society
Military Order of Foreign Wars
The Flag and General Officers' Network
Hamilton County Veterans Association*