

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

As the expiration of the current Continuing Resolution approaches on April 8, 2011 and to date no action on H.R. 1 by the Senate, we want to take this opportunity to express our concern about the potential impact on service members and military families, especially in light of a recent Department of Defense (DoD) Guidance Memorandum indicating that “military personnel will serve without pay” in the event the Senate fails to adopt H.R.1 or a similar measure to appropriate funds to operate the federal government.

According to reports, the March 2011 DoD Guidance recommends that, while the military will continue essential operations and continue to prosecute the war during a possible federal government shutdown, service members will not be paid during this period.

Given the current operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and now a third front opened by the President’s decision to engage in operations in Libya, we have put tens of thousands of brave Americans in harm’s way to fight for freedom around the globe. In light of their sacrifice on our behalf it would be a complete abdication of your duties if the Senate refused to pass a spending bill and allowed our troops and their families to not be compensated for their service. Therefore, we call for your assurances to secure national defense funding, and in particular the salaries of our servicemen and women, regardless of the outcome of our ongoing debate on overall domestic funding.

DoD has indicated that issues impacting service members’ financial security do impact the military’s operational readiness, as service members need to be focused on the field tasks at hand rather than on worrying about financial issues back home. Pulling these brave men and women into a policy debate, for political purposes, lack of foresight, or by mistake is wrong. Our nation’s war fighters, nor their spouses, should have to worry whether or not they, or their families, will get paid next week, next month, or next year. Unfortunately, these concerns are already occurring as a result of recent DoD Guidance.

Spirited debate and discussions among policymakers on vital national issues is important. However, we should not and cannot allow this process to threaten the operational readiness of our military.

It is our hope that we can work together to ensure that our brave service members and their families will continue to receive their military pay and that they will not be financially impacted under any scenario.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Gode

Vicky Hartzler

Richard B. August

Jeff Young

Jeff Fortenberry

David J. Riddle

Jim Carver

Tim Griffin

John Ryan

Troy Landry

Mark Brown

Mike

Diane Black

Michael A. A.R.-1

Barack

John S. II-19

Pete Souza

Scott Garrett

Matthew Foley

Doug Lamson

D. A. R.

Lynne Jenkins

Lynne L. Wall

Jeff Miller

Walter B. Jones

Joe Wilson

Todd L. Blante

David P. Roe

Steve Austin

Steve Palazzo MS-04

Frank A. Lohmeier

Wan Burton

Jack Kingston

Boyd Miller

David Schweiker

Blake Farenthold

Lou Barletta

Phil Pingree

Tom Marino

George Pappalardo

Scott Rigell

Bill B. Miller

Curtis Leth

Pat Tohi

Tom

Vern Buchanan

Bob Smith MS-7

John Smith MS-4

Bill Hargis MS-02

Blaine Smith

Bill Long

Sam Adams

Bob Smith

Mike Coffman

John Kline

Bob Smith 04-15

Robert J. Ald

Alan Hummel MS-01

Mo Brooks

Tom

Randy Neugebauer

Robert W. Withers

Sam Cole

Ralph M. Hall

Bob Dill

Cy D...

Kim Vorn

Bryant

Bill B. ...

Stewart ...

CE ...

R. ... NC-02

...

Tom ...

Anna Hunt

Joe Slack

Tom Marino

Howard ...

Bill Johnson OH-6

Sandy ...

... FL-02

... KS-4