

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2496

To specify that in the event that the debt ceiling is reached, the United States shall prioritize the payment of pay and allowances to members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components thereof, and the payment of obligations on the public debt, and to appropriate such funds as may be necessary to ensure that members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components thereof, continue to receive pay and allowances for active service performed when a funding gap occurs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 12, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mrs. BACHMANN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To specify that in the event that the debt ceiling is reached, the United States shall prioritize the payment of pay and allowances to members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components thereof, and the payment of obligations on the public debt, and to appropriate such funds as may be necessary to ensure that members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components thereof, continue to receive pay and allowances for active service performed when a funding gap occurs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Payment Reliability
5 for our Obligations to Military and Investors to Secure
6 Essential Stability Act” or the “PROMISES Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. PRIORITY OF PAYMENTS IF THE DEBT CEILING IS**
8 **REACHED.**

9 In the event that the debt of the United States Gov-
10 ernment, as defined in section 3101 of title 31, United
11 States Code, reaches the statutory limit, amounts nec-
12 essary for obligations incurred by the Government of the
13 United States shall be made available to the following obli-
14 gations before all other obligations and shall be made
15 available as prioritized in the following order (with items
16 listed in descending order of prioritization):

17 (1) Such amounts as the Secretary of Defense
18 (and the Secretary of Homeland Security in the case
19 of the Coast Guard) determines to be necessary to
20 continue to provide pay and allowances (without
21 interruption) to members of the Army, Navy, Air
22 Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, including
23 reserve components thereof, who perform active serv-
24 ice.

1 (2) Amounts necessary to carry out the author-
2 ity of the Department of the Treasury provided in
3 section 3123 of title 31, United States Code, to pay
4 with legal tender the principal and interest on debt
5 held by the public.

6 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO PRO-**
7 **VIDE PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS**
8 **OF THE ARMED FORCES DURING FUNDING**
9 **GAP IMPACTING THE DEPARTMENT OF DE-**
10 **FENSE OR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SE-**
11 **CURITY.**

12 (a) APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR MILITARY PAY
13 AND ALLOWANCES.—During a funding gap impacting the
14 Armed Forces, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make
15 available to the Secretary of Defense (and the Secretary
16 of Homeland Security in the case of the Coast Guard),
17 out of any amounts in the general fund of the Treasury
18 not otherwise appropriated, such amounts as the Secretary
19 of Defense (and the Secretary of Homeland Security in
20 the case of the Coast Guard) determines to be necessary
21 to continue to provide pay and allowances (without inter-
22 ruption) to members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Ma-
23 rine Corps, and Coast Guard, including reserve compo-
24 nents thereof, who perform active service during the fund-
25 ing gap.

1 (b) FUNDING GAP DEFINED.—In this section, the
2 term “funding gap” means any period of time after the
3 beginning of a fiscal year for which interim or full-year
4 appropriations for the personnel accounts of the Armed
5 Forces for that fiscal year have not been enacted.

○