



October 7, 2025

The Honorable Dan Sullivan (AK)
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jen Kiggans (VA-02)
152 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Sullivan and Representative Kiggans,

The undersigned veteran and military service organizations, representing current and former uniformed servicemembers, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, thank you for introducing the Pay Our Military Act of 2025 (S.876), the Pay Our Troops Act of 2025 (H.R.1932), and the Pay Our Troops Act of 2026 (H.R.5401). This critical legislation ensures that the men and women who serve our country in uniform are not left without pay during a government shutdown, a situation that could otherwise place a tremendous financial burden on those who sacrifice so much for our nation's safety and security.

While we commend the purpose of this legislation to protect our Armed Forces servicemembers, we respectfully request the introduction of a technical amendment to cover all the uniformed services so as to also include members of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commissioned Officer Corps.

The bill's current language limits coverage to only members of the Armed Forces, excluding service members who play an essential role in safeguarding public health and national security. These men and women in USPHS and NOAA, like their counterparts in the Armed Forces, are sworn to serve and defend our nation in times of crisis and directly support the Armed Forces, such as USPHS serving as the medical personnel for the U.S. Coast Guard, and NOAA supporting oceanographic and bathymetric operational and tactical requirements of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps, in addition to their other duties. In the event of a government shutdown, these personnel must not be excluded from the protections this bill offers.

This technical amendment would be straightforward, simply replacing the reference to "Armed Forces" under Title 10 U.S.C. § 101 with "Uniformed Services" under Title 37 U.S.C. § 101.

Thank you for considering these provisions. With these changes, we look forward to working with you to advance this legislation and to continuing our collaboration on other areas of mutual interest.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline D. Rychnovsky, PhD, RN, CAE
Captain, U.S. Navy (retired)
Executive Director

See attached list of organizations on the next page:

Association of the United States Navy
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States
Fleet Reserve Association
Gold Star Spouses of America
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jewish War Veterans of America
Military Chaplains Association
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the Purple Heart
National Defense Committee
National Military Families Association
Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors
TREA: The Enlisted Association
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers & Enlisted Association
United States Army Warrant Officers Association