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.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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,

Diane Black

Lynn Jenkins

AR-1

Lynn A Westmoreland

Jeff Miller

IL-19

Walter B. Jones

Pete Sessions

Joe Wilson

Scott Garrett

Todd R. Platts

Martha Roby

David P Roe

Doug LaMalfa

Steve Austria

MS-04

Frank A. LaBiondo

Dan Burton

Jack Kingston

Gary Miller

David Schweikert

Blake Farenthold

Lou Barletta

Phil Bingaman

Tom Marino

James Lankford

Scott Rigell

Phil B. Mitchell

Curtis Gatt

Pat Tiberi

Tom Ne

Vern Buchanan

[illegible] MI-7

[illegible] SC-4

[illegible] MI-02

Blaine Luetkemeyer

Billy Long

Sam Graves

[illegible]

Mike Coffman

John Kline

[illegible] 04-15

Robert J. Dold

Alan Nunnelee MS-01

Mo Brooks

[illegible]

Ranny Neugebauer

Robert J. Wittman

Sam Cole

Ralph M. Hall

Attachment: DoD Guidance Memo from Federal News Radio Service