



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

September 13, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chair:

We thank Congress for passing Fiscal Year 2024 Defense Appropriations, including multiyear procurement funds, and National Security Supplemental Funding for critical investments into our Nation's defense industrial base.

However, I am concerned the Joint Force has been constrained by Continuing Resolutions for 14 of the past 15 years, totaling 5 years' worth of lost time we cannot get back. Continuing Resolutions (CR) of any length have lasting impacts on the Joint Force. The National Defense Strategy identifies the key challenges that threaten U.S. national interests. All are currently active and, in some cases, working together. This convergence puts us in the most dynamic and challenging global security environment in my nearly 40 years in uniform.

Our Joint Force is the most capable and lethal fighting force in the world. Maintaining our strategic advantage depends upon on-time funding to have a modernized and ready force. In the race against time, each CR is the equivalent of taking a knee on advancing our defense capabilities as security challenges increase their momentum to challenge our credible combat power. CRs significantly impact and degrade acquisition of the warfighting capability and capacity required to defend the United States and our interests. They slow progress and damage our relationships with the defense industrial base, eroding trust driving up costs, and increasing delivery times, as industry hedges against funding inconsistencies.

Should Congress move forward with a six-month CR, we anticipate detrimental impacts to readiness and modernization across the Joint Force. Pay and entitlements, nuclear enterprise modernization, shipbuilding and maintenance, aircraft procurement, weapons system sustainment, munitions production, and multiple new starts are just a few examples that will feel the brunt of the lost time and lost buying power caused by a CR.

Our Joint Force depends on long-term, stable, predictable, and timely funding. We are living in a consequential time. There is no time to waste. Thank you for your continued support and service to our Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Q. B. JR.", written in a cursive style.

CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.
General, U.S. Air Force

cc:

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member