

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Chair  
U.S Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Ranking Member  
U.S Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation

6 October 2022

Dear Senators Cantwell and Wicker,

On behalf of the veterans, military personnel, and their families who are members of, and represented by, the member organizations of the National Military & Veterans Alliance (NMVA), and especially for the 106,000 active-duty, reserve, civilian personnel, and retirees of the United States Coast Guard, we wholeheartedly support the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 and ask for the Senate's quickest passage so Coast Guard families receive pay checks even when annual appropriations lapse.

When previous appropriations lapsed, as in fiscal year 2019, members of the Coast Guard and their families are particularly hard hit as their pay is not guaranteed as it is for the other military services during a lapse in appropriations. During that last lapse in appropriations, Coast Guard members did not receive their regular paychecks, and many families were relying on food banks over the Christmas holiday and fell behind on routine bills. Despite their not being paid by the very government that hired them, the men and women of the Coast Guard continued to perform their mission faithfully defending the shores of our nation without fail. As well, Coast Guard retirees saw their pensions stop for 35 days.

Since 1775, the Coast Guard defended America at all costs, without regard to political wrangling. We ask you to pass the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 immediately to ensure Coast Guard members continue and retirees receive their pay regularly, regardless of the status of the annual appropriations, as well as provide needed reforms in access to affordable housing and expanded childcare.

Thank you for your leadership and the support you show of the men, women, and families of the United States Coast Guard, who keep America safe!

Very Respectfully,

U.S. Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officers Association  
National Defense Committee  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
American Retirees Association  
Korean War Veterans Association, Inc  
America Warriors Partnership  
Healing Household 6  
Japanese American Veterans Association  
Armed Forces Retirees Association  
Reserve Organization of America  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Korean War Veterans of America  
Catholic War Veterans of the USA  
Heroes Athletic Alliance  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association  
VetsFirst/United Spinal Association  
American WWII Orphans Network  
Non Commissioned Officers Association  
American Logistics Association  
The Armed Forces Marketing Council  
Vietnam Veterans of America