

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2019

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Senate Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Senate Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Capito and Ranking Member Tester:

We understand the rewarding, but challenging, role that comes with being a military family. Our men and women in uniform risk their lives every day to protect our freedom and our way of life, and we will always do everything we can to fight for the priorities that matter most to our military, veterans and their families.

It was unacceptable that during the recent government shutdown, the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) were not paid. These are truly amazing men and women who work day in and day out to honorably defend our country. But due to Washington's dysfunction, whenever a funding deadline nears, these service members have to endure uncertainty about how they are going to put food on the table, pay for medicine for their children, or make rent. The most heartbreaking consequence of all is that, as long as a shutdown continues, families of USCG members killed in active service are unable to receive death benefits.

This is why, as your Committee considers Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations, we respectfully ask for your consideration in including language that ensures pay to members of the USCG and retirees during a lapse in appropriations, if members of the other Armed Forces are receiving pay.


Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your considerable efforts on the Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations bills

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito and The Honorable Jon Tester
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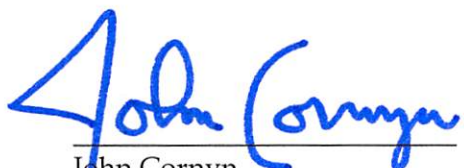
Sincerely,




Rick Scott
United States Senator



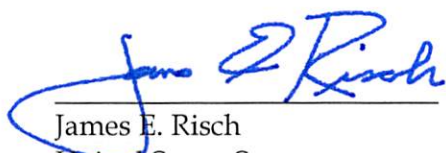
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



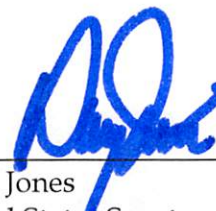
John Cornyn
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator