



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Majority Leader:

The Department of Defense (DoD) once again faces the threat of an extended continuing resolution (CR) to fund our programs and operations into the new year. It is essential that Congress act now to complete a full-year, whole of government funding bill before the end of 2022. Failure to do so will result in significant harm to our people and our programs and would cause harm to our national security and our competitiveness.

At a time when many in Congress are strongly supporting the funding level we requested for fiscal year 2023, or advocating for additional funding, operating under a CR moves our budget backward, not forward, reducing our topline by at least \$3 billion per month below the level President Biden requested. The impact of these cuts is compounded the longer our ability to enter into contracts is delayed.

The CR costs us time as well as money, and money can't buy back time, especially for lost training events. Under the CR, Congress prohibits the military from commencing new initiatives, such as those requested by our theater commanders in the Indo-Pacific and around the world or in support of Service members and their families at home.

- Under the CR, the progress funded by our FY2023 research and development budget — the largest requested in history — cannot take place. And our FY2023 procurement request — also the largest requested in history — cannot be fully executed. An ongoing CR will cause delays in all three legs of the nuclear triad when we have no schedule margin left to give. It is also slowing our progress in space, delaying necessary new investments in our industrial base and getting ship construction on contract.
- The CR hurts American Service members and their families. For example, if the CR extends beyond December, we may be forced to reduce accessions or permanent change of station moves, impairing our ability to meet our missions, and causing unnecessary disruption to our families and our ability to recruit personnel. As in FY2022, it is impairing our ability to hire the people we need to accelerate our efforts to eradicate sexual assault and prevent suicides.
- The CR is delaying needed investments in military infrastructure, including barracks and child care centers. Under a year-long CR, we would lose an entire year of

investment in our infrastructure, because military construction projects are by definition prohibited new starts.

We must break this pattern of extensive inaction. We can't outcompete China with our hands tied behind our back three, four, five or six months of every fiscal year. Since I unveiled our National Defense Strategy in March, I have found strong support for it in Congress, in our force, across America and with our allies and partners. Our FY2023 budget was designed precisely to make that strategy real. But we can't implement that strategy unless and until the budget is funded.

Over the past few months, when we have sought your help to assist our partners in Ukraine and protect the interests of America and our NATO Allies in light of Russia's unprovoked invasion, you have responded quickly and in a bipartisan manner. I thank you for that. Our whole of government response is making an enormous difference.

Our broader national security needs, which our National Defense Strategy and our FY2023 budget are designed to address, are just as important. They deserve and require prompt action by Congress as well. Indeed, our national security depends not only on the Department of Defense but on critical activities and investments in the Departments of State, Homeland Security, Energy, Justice, and Health and Human Services, just to name a few. And I would be remiss if I didn't convey that as our brave servicewomen and men become veterans, we must meet our sacred commitments to them, and fully fund the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the new requirements of the PACT Act.

I strongly urge you to act decisively — now — to meet America's needs and support our forces who support all of us, by immediately reaching a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on full-year 2023 appropriations for DoD and all agencies. As I have said before, it's not only the right thing to do, it's the best thing you can do for our Nation's defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rep. J. Rust", with a stylized flourish at the end.

cc:
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader



**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000**

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

The Department of Defense (DoD) once again faces the threat of an extended continuing resolution (CR) to fund our programs and operations into the new year. It is essential that Congress act now to complete a full-year, whole of government funding bill before the end of 2022. Failure to do so will result in significant harm to our people and our programs and would cause harm to our national security and our competitiveness.

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I strongly urge you to act decisively — now — to meet America's needs and support our forces who support all of us, by immediately reaching a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on full-year 2023 appropriations for DoD and all agencies. As I have said before, it's not only the right thing to do, it's the best thing you can do for our Nation's defense.

Sincerely,

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cc:

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader



**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000**

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Defense (DoD) once again faces the threat of an extended continuing resolution (CR) to fund our programs and operations into the new year. It is essential that Congress act now to complete a full-year, whole of government funding bill before the end of 2022. Failure to do so will result in significant harm to our people and our programs and would cause harm to our national security and our competitiveness.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. F. Kennedy Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

cc:

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Vice Chairman



**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000**

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rep. J. Rust", with a stylized flourish at the end.

cc:

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member