ANOTHER CR WILL HURT OUR MILITARY

While Democrats focus on their partisan impeachment proceedings, Republicans are drawing attention to serious issues that the American people want their elected leaders to address. Namely: Congress' constitutional duty to provide for the common defense.

Our men and women in uniform need stable, full, and timely funding in order to face down critical threats—from China and Russia to terrorist groups. But a CR would undermine military readiness and hurt our troops. It goes without saying that funding for our military should never fall victim to political squabbling.

Republicans on the Armed Services, Appropriations, and Budget committees released a fact sheet earlier this month that describes the very real effects of a full-year CR on our national security. Please see below:

Damage to America's Military Under A Full-Year Continuing Resolution

According to CRS, the Pentagon has "started the fiscal year under a CR for 13 of the past 18 years." With the exception of FY19, DOD has started every year since 2010 under a CR. The Navy has calculated that they wasted $4 billion between 2011 and 2017 as a result of CRs.

When Congress returns, it will have just ten days to take action before America's military runs out of funding. In August, a budget agreement was reached that provided additional resources for the Department of Defense. Congress must enact a full-year Defense appropriations bill that reflects that agreement.

CRs are wasteful. They harm our troops and America's National Security. Every day we go without passing a DOD funding bill makes it more and more likely that our troops—who will almost certainly be tested in the coming weeks—will face a full-year CR, with all the damage and uncertainty these stop-gap measures inflict. That is unacceptable. Here is some of the very real damage a full-year CR will do.

Military Personnel: In the wake of news reports of service members and their families living in inadequate and dangerous family housing, the Army would be prevented from building 4,400 new dwellings and forced to delay repair on another 269 homes. Navy families' moves will be curtailed, bonuses and awards will be eliminated, and the overall size of the Navy will have to be reduced.

Pilot Shortage: A year-long CR will put additional pressure on our Air Force pilots by perpetuating a critical pilot shortage. The Air Force is short 2,100 pilots, putting an additional burden on those serving now. As former Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson put it, "with 2,000 pilots short, it'll break the force." A year-long CR will cut $123 million from undergraduate flight training, as well as cutting contractor instructor pilots. A new maintenance training center won't open and maintenance for the aging fleet of training aircraft will be delayed.

Ship Operations: Following the fatal accidents aboard the USS McCain and USS Fitzgerald that were attributed in part to training issues, a CR would force the Navy to cancel 14 ship maintenance periods, cancel ship underway training, and limit operations of the deployed Fleet.

Navy Flying missions: A CR would cause the shutdown of non-deployed Navy aviation, limiting flight training in the US to only those units about to deploy. It would also temporarily eliminate our nation's ability to surge additional Navy forces in times of conflict. Finally, the Navy would incur additional costs to regenerate and recertify flying operations for non-deployed Navy aviation units.

Munitions Shortage: The fight against al Qaeda and ISIS depends on precision guided munitions. Obama-era spending cuts and repeated CRs forced the Army and Air Force to use these munitions faster than they could replace them, creating a critical shortage. A year-long CR would perpetuate this problem. It would significantly reduce the number of munitions the Air Force is able to buy in the next fiscal year. When the Army and Air Force are able to resume rebuilding the stockpile, it is likely these weapons will be more expensive and much of the progress made over the past two years in ramping up the munitions industrial base will be erased. Navy will be unable to expand needed production increases in Tomahawk missiles, torpedoes, and other critical weapons.

Leaves Our Troops Vulnerable To Peer Competitors: The Pentagon needs to field important technologies that protect our troops from peer competitors. These include a GPS-like system that is impervious to hacking, spoofing, and jamming, mobile air and missile defense systems, long range precision munitions such as hypersonics and extended range artillery, next generation combat vehicles, advanced helicopters and aircraft, improved night vision devices, and improved sensor and network technology. A year-long CR would prohibit development of unmanned surface vessels, future ship designs, and artificial intelligence development. A delay of a year or more on these systems could make our troops vulnerable and erode our competitive advantage for years to come.

Disaster Recovery: Key military installations like Tyndall and Offutt Air Force Bases, China Lake, and Camp Lejeune have been severely damaged by natural disasters in the past year. Funds urgently needed to repair these facilities so that they can resume their critical national security missions will not be available under a year-long CR. Delaying disaster recovery will hurt critical missions, including F22 training, intelligence and surveillance, and Navy testing.

Top officials and experts are also issuing stark warnings about the serious danger another CR would pose to our troops and security.

- ***Defense Secretary Mark Esper** warned:*
  - *"Threats to the United States don't wait around for funding—and neither should our warfighters. As the CR expiration looms, I again urge Congress to pass a budget ASAP—our warfighters need consistent, reliable funding as they face adversaries across the globe. CRs harm national security & deny our brave service members the funding they need against our fully funded adversaries."*

- *A long-term continuing resolution would further delay **much-needed nuclear modernization efforts**. Lisa Gordon-Hagerty, Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), recently told reporters:*
  - *"We are in a situation right now where we have single-point failures throughout our enterprise … It's necessary for us, for the NNSA and for the nuclear security enterprise to receive consistent and robust funding to modernize our infrastructure as well as continue ongoing operations."*

- *Experts also say that an extended CR would **gravely undermine Army modernization**:*
  - *"A yearlong CR would … undermine and delay plans related to the precision strike missile, land-based hypersonic missile, and strategic long range cannon. Indeed, a yearlong CR would almost certainly prevent the delivery of a strategic fires capability to U.S. soldiers by 2023."*