



22 December 2018

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

On behalf of Sea Service Family Foundation, and our more than 50,000 supporters, we urge you to reintroduce S. 545, the Pay Our Coast Guard Act. The act was introduced in the 114th Congress, in February of 2015. This legislation makes continuous appropriations for Coast Guard pay for a government shutdown. The impact the shutdown will have on Coasties is unnecessary and can cause a serious amount of stress during the holidays and afterwards.

In order to conduct operations as normal, the act provides for sums as necessary to provide pay and allowances to members of the Coast Guard, including reserve components who perform active service and inactive duty training. The act also calls for pay for civilian employees of the Coast Guard, and such sums as necessary to provide pay and allowances to contractors of the Coast Guard.

Their brothers and sisters in the Department of Defense are being paid, and so should they. Please consider the benefit this legislation would have on the Coasties and their families during the holiday season.

Furthermore, the impact this shutdown will have on the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance will make it difficult for them to continue supporting the men and women of the Coast Guard due to the majority of their funds coming from Direct Deposit.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the Military community by working to improve the lives and careers of those who serve our great nation.

Very Respectfully,

*Michael Joseph Little
Executive Director & Chairman of the Board
Sea Service Family, Foundation*