

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 8, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

Speaker Johnson,

We urge you to bring legislation to pay America's service members to the House floor for a vote in time to ensure military personnel get paid on October 15th. If Congress does not act by October 15th, nearly three million military families will miss their next paycheck. That's unacceptable — our military families and troops deserve better.¹

Congress must work across the aisle and in good faith to end this shutdown, find common ground, protect Americans' health care, and ensure there is no undue harm to our service members and their families. While negotiations to re-open the government continue, we encourage you to bring bipartisan, commonsense legislation to the floor to ensure that military service members, as well as civilian personnel and contractors, will continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.

Those who dedicate their lives to serving our country should never have to worry whether they will receive a paycheck, even during a government shutdown. During the 2013 government shutdown, Congress successfully passed the *Pay Our Military Act*, a similar bill which provided pay for members of the Armed Forces during a government shutdown. There is precedent for bringing legislation to pay our troops up for a vote during a shutdown and a record that shows Congress can come together for the benefit of our service members even while disagreeing on other matters.

The threats from our adversaries do not stop because the federal government shuts down. We have an obligation to take care of our service members and asking them to stand guard without pay is wrong. At a time when one in four military families are already facing food insecurity and struggling to make ends meet, we cannot afford to let dysfunction in Washington hurt our service members and their families.²

In particular, junior enlisted service members already face significant financial pressures as some of the lowest paid members of our military. Low base pay, housing and food insecurity, family

¹ "How many people are in the US military? A demographic overview." USA Facts. June 22, 2025.

<https://usafacts.org/articles/how-many-people-are-in-the-us-military-a-demographic-overview/>

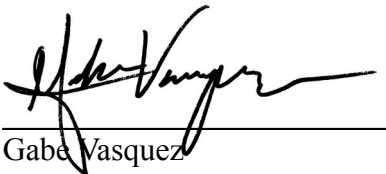
² "Why food insecurity remains a challenge for troops and their families." Military Times. September 28, 2024.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/opinion/2024/09/28/why-food-insecurity-remains-a-challenge-for-troops-and-their-families/#:~:text=MFAN's%20findings%20are%20consistent%20with%20the%20Defense,service%20members%20experienced%20food%20insecurity%20in%202022.>

obligations, and limited opportunities for wealth accumulation means that a government shutdown will disproportionately impact this crucial segment of our military service members.

This is a moment not only to support our troops, but also to show the American people and the world that our service members and our national security are above politics and the bedrock of our nation. We urge you to support America's military members and bring legislation to ensure that there is no disruption in troop pay during this shutdown to the House Floor for a vote immediately.

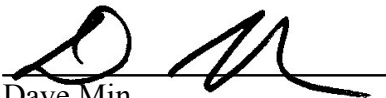
Sincerely,



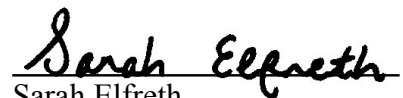
Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



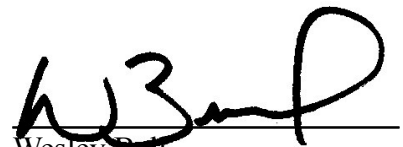
Dave Min
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfneeth
Member of Congress



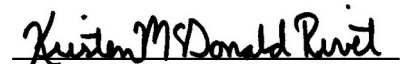
Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



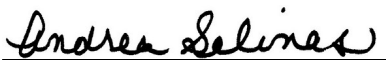
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



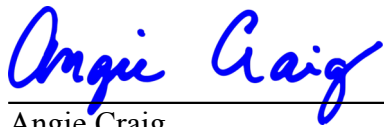
Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



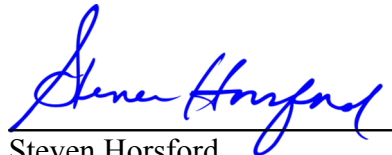
Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



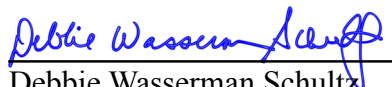
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



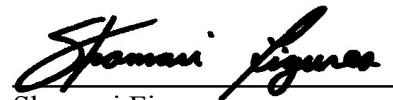
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



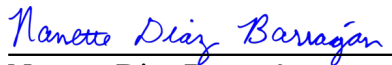
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



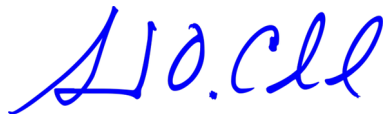
Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



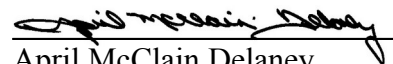
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



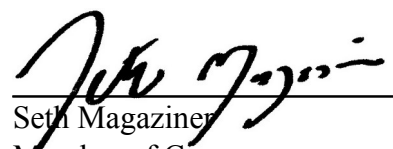
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



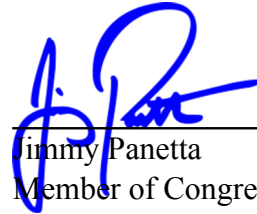
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



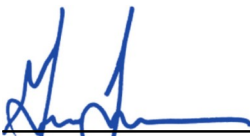
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



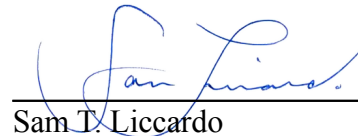
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



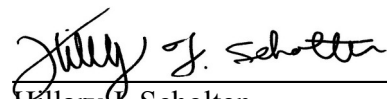
Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



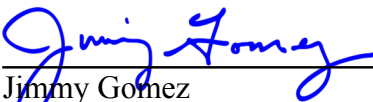
Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



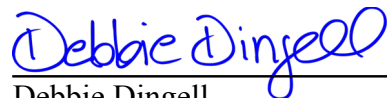
Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



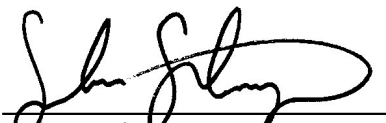
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



JM Tokuda
Member of Congress



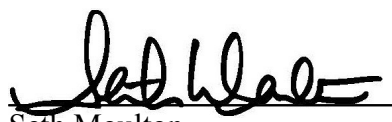
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



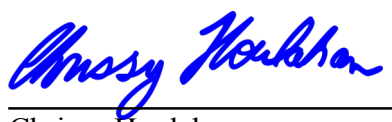
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Josh Riley
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



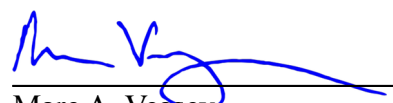
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



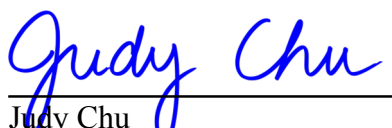
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



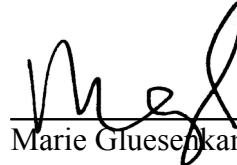
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



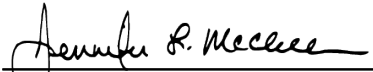
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



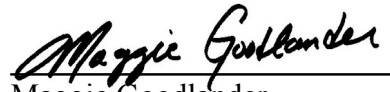
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



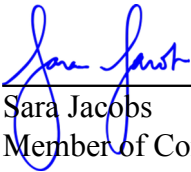
Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



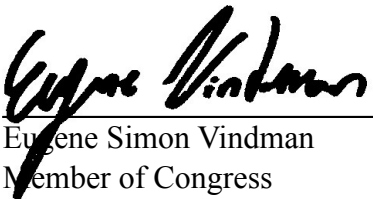
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



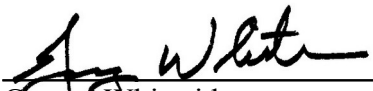
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



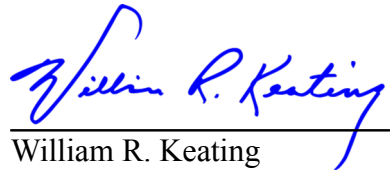
Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



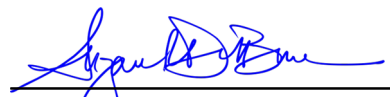
George Whitesides
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



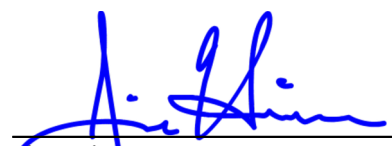
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



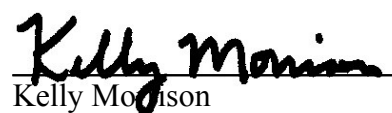
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



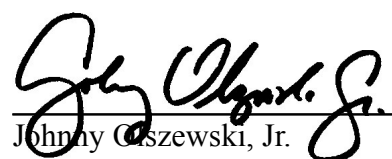
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



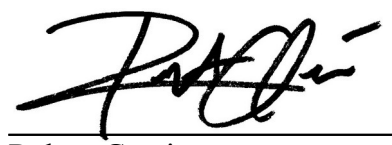
Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



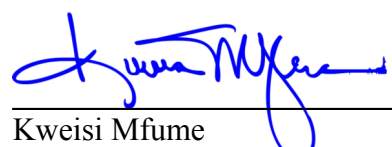
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Laura A. Gillen
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



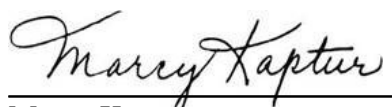
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress