



March 10, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Re: Avoid Shutdown and Prioritize Enactment of the FY26 DoD Appropriations Act

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the members of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), we write to support passage of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 to avoid a government shutdown. We also respectfully ask Congress to prioritize enactment of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations Act before the start of the next fiscal year.

NDIA is the nation's largest defense industry association, representing more than 1,700 corporate and more than 67,000 individual members from small, medium, and large businesses spread throughout the country. These companies represent the 1.1 million Americans¹ in the U.S. defense industrial base (U.S. DIB) that design, manufacture, apply, and maintain the cutting-edge technologies on which the U.S. military depends. A majority of our member companies are small businesses, which DoD estimates represent 73 percent² of all U.S. DIB companies.

NDIA maintains a strong position against long-term continuing resolutions (CRs) and shutdowns that fail to provide DoD with the necessary flexibility to respond to developing circumstances and take advantage of emerging opportunities. **However, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 makes significant changes to the traditional CR language that has been enacted over the last 16 fiscal years.**

Under this funding legislation, DoD is given the authority to initiate new starts and leverage multi-year procurements. The bill also provides additional funds to complete construction for several shipbuilding programs, increases the general transfer authority, and grants additional flexibility to obligate more funds during the last two months of the fiscal year. Many of these address concerns and reflect recommendations highlighted by NDIA in past correspondence and *Vital Signs 2025*³ as well as the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) Reform Commission.⁴ **The new start authorities in Section 1409, for example, are a welcome improvement to promote innovation and, as recommended by the PPBE Commission, should become standard practice in the future.** As such, NDIA supports swift passage of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 to avoid a harmful government shutdown.

¹ NDIA, *Vital Signs 2023*, February 2023

² U.S. Department of Defense, *Small Business Strategy*, January 2023

³ NDIA, *Vital Signs 2025*, February 2025

⁴ Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform. *Defense Resourcing for the Future: Final Report*. March 6, 2024

Additionally, NDIA respectfully asks Congress to prioritize enactment of the FY2026 DoD Appropriations Act before the start of the next fiscal year. By March 14, 2025, the U.S. government will have hit the grim milestone of operating under a CR for a total of 1,925 days over the last 16 years. Although the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 includes several vital anomalies that provide DoD with needed flexibility, the budget instability over the past two decades has caused damage to our national security, military readiness, and businesses of all sizes that support our warfighters. Therefore, it is crucial that Congress continue to work towards normalizing passage of the full-year DoD Appropriations Act on time each year.

On behalf of NDIA's members, we thank you for your continued support of the U.S. military and the U.S. DIB, and we encourage you to vote yes on the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 and prioritize passage of the FY2026 DoD Appropriations Act before September 30, 2025.

Sincerely,



Hon. David L. Norquist
NDIA President and CEO

CC:

Senator Susan Collins
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Mitch McConnell
Senator Christopher Coons
Representative Tom Cole
Representative Rosa DeLauro
Representative Ken Calvert
Representative Betty McCollum
Senator Roger Wicker
Senator Jack Reed
Representative Mike Rogers
Representative Adam Smith