

Letter of Concern:

My name is [REDACTED]; I am a [REDACTED] for a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] unit stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. I write this letter of concern today, not as an Army officer, but as a concerned citizen. The current Budget crisis that is unfolding in Washington has far reaching and dire implications to our men and women in uniform.

I have had many Soldiers ask me “How will I support my family sir?”, “I can’t believe that I’m being asked to deploy to a combat zone with no guarantee of getting paid” and in every case, I have no good answer to give them. I write today to ask the members of Congress, the Senate, and the President to pass any measure, bill, or piece of legislation that will ensure that the men and women in uniform will not have a loss or delay in pay. In the military we have something called “second and third order effects”, which means that a loss/delay of pay to the members of the military will result in many people not being able to pay their bills, buy food and fuel, possibly miss mortgage payments, loss of child care and result in poor credit reporting, NSF bank fees and a possible loss of financial security over the long-term.

Funding the military in this case is not about bombs and bullets, rather it is all about the people...the families behind the service members that have been asked to sacrifice so much already. It is irresponsible for us to add this burden and stress to the only segment of Americans that serve their Country in “Enemy Territory”. I am frankly surprised and disappointed that the 1% of the population that wears the uniform has to fight for financial security in our own nation.

My concern is not about my bank account, it is about the 18yr old Soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan who is ready to go on a deadly mission in the enemy’s home turf and they hear that their wife cannot buy groceries, or that the rent check bounced. When I have Soldiers that qualify for WIC and other government programs it shows me that service members are paid too little to begin with, and taking away their only source of income is inconceivable.

The impending government shutdown will destroy the confidence of our troops in our national leaders and will break many families. I cannot illustrate every possible outcome in this letter, but I can say with certainty that not taking care of our military members will be the biggest, single detriment to our National security and prosperity in recent history. Remember, that this shutdown doesn’t effect a nameless, faceless organization...it effects me, my wife, [REDACTED] and my children [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].....and thousands more like us.