



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

18 September 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Murray:

As Congress works to advance Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations legislation, I would like to highlight the significant challenges a Continuing Resolution (CR) poses to the Department of the Air Force (DAF). The FY 2025 DAF budget aligns with the National Defense Strategy (NDS) and Department of Defense priorities. A CR of any length impacts DAF readiness, hinders acceleration of the Space Force, delays military construction (MILCON) projects, reduces aircraft availability, and curbs modernization in our race for technological superiority. A CR also sets us back in meeting the pacing challenge presented by the People's Republic of China, which continues to invest heavily in capabilities designed to prevent the United States and its allies from projecting power in the Western Pacific. Below are amplifying examples detailing impacts a six-month CR would have on the DAF.

**Impacts to Personnel & Readiness**

- Degrades the Air Force's and Space Force's ability to care for our most critical asset – our service members – by hampering efforts to meet Basic Pay, Housing, and Subsistence Allowances; Recruiting and Retention Bonuses; and interrupts implementation of the Independent Review Commission (IRC) recommendations on sexual assault and suicide prevention and response
- Reduces Air Force aircraft Mission Capable (MC) and aircrew currency rates due to reduction in Weapon System Sustainment (WSS) and Flying Hour Program (FHP)

**Impacts to Modernization**

- Prevents production increases for munition stockpiles, including Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM)-Extended Range, Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASM), and Stand-In Attack Weapon (SiAW)
- Impedes DAF nuclear enterprise modernization by delaying B-21 initial operation capability, Minuteman III recapitalization efforts, and Little Mountain Test Facility updates
- Halts Space Force development on launch and range test system software and delays the start of production for Space COMSEC products

## Impacts to MILCON

- Compromises 11 MILCON projects across 5 states, totaling \$680 million supporting 11 weapon system beddowns, Child Development Centers, dormitories, and 5 European/Indo-Pacific projects fundamental to strategic military operations

In the event of a year-long CR, four Air Force Operational Imperative initiatives would also experience delays, hindering the DAF's ability to close key capability gaps, accelerate development, and assure U.S. advantage against pacing challenges with Space Order of Battle, Kill Chain Automation, Collaborative Combat Aircraft development, and Moving Target Engagement. Additionally, a year-long CR would degrade SATCOM capabilities, stall the advancement of Space Force programs including GPS III Follow On and Missile Warning/Missile Tracking, and prevent 33 new major construction projects totaling over \$2 billion.

The DAF greatly values our partnership with Congress and appreciates your commitment to our Airmen and Guardians. The longer the DAF operates under a CR, the greater the impact on our people and programs. These impacts get dramatically more perilous as Sequestration is imposed under the *Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023 (PL 118-5)*, reducing DAF buying power by \$15B. I appeal to you and your colleagues to advance full-year FY25 appropriations legislation as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support of the finest Air and Space Forces in the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Kendall', with a stylized, flowing script.

Frank Kendall

Attachment:  
FY25 DAF CR Impacts Paper



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
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18 September 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cole:

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SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
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18 September 2024

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeLauro:

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18 September 2024

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Collins:

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